Basic Combat Training

THE UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER, ARMOR

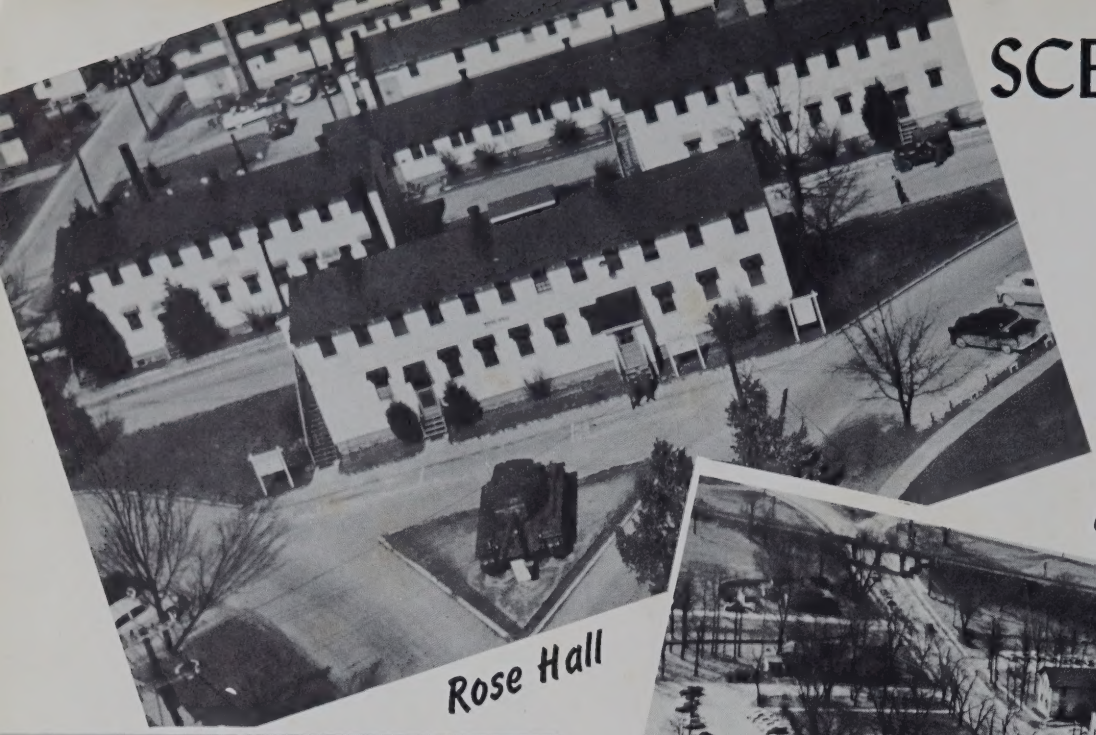
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

1956

CO. B-12TH BN.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY
TRAINING CENTER, ARMOR
FORT KNOX
KENTUCKY

SCENES AROUND



Rose Hall

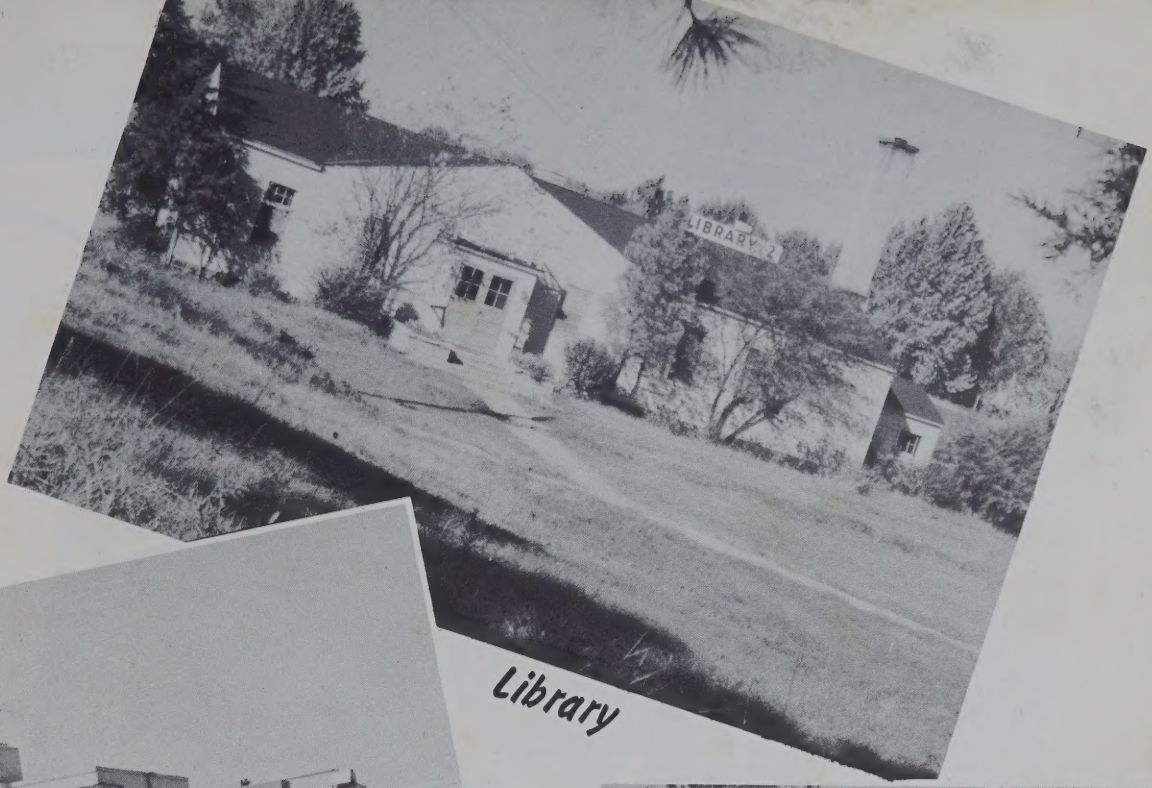
Civic Center

Post Office

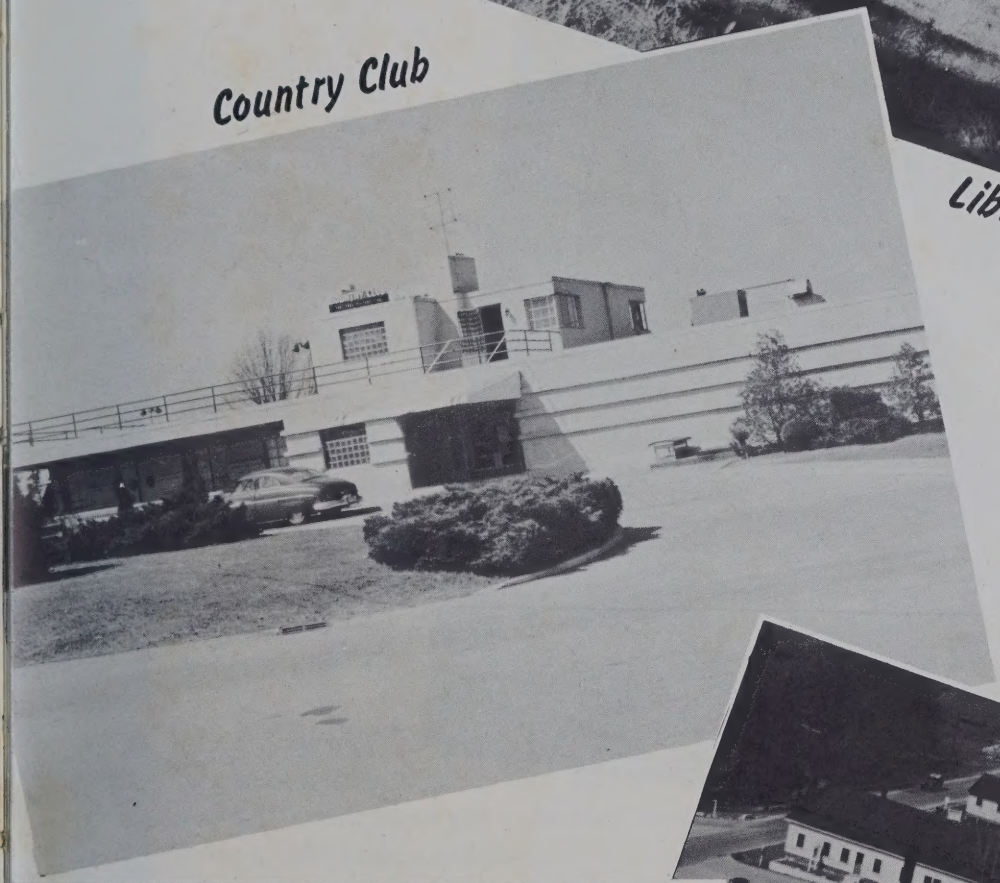
Fort Knox Theatre

Barracks

THE POST

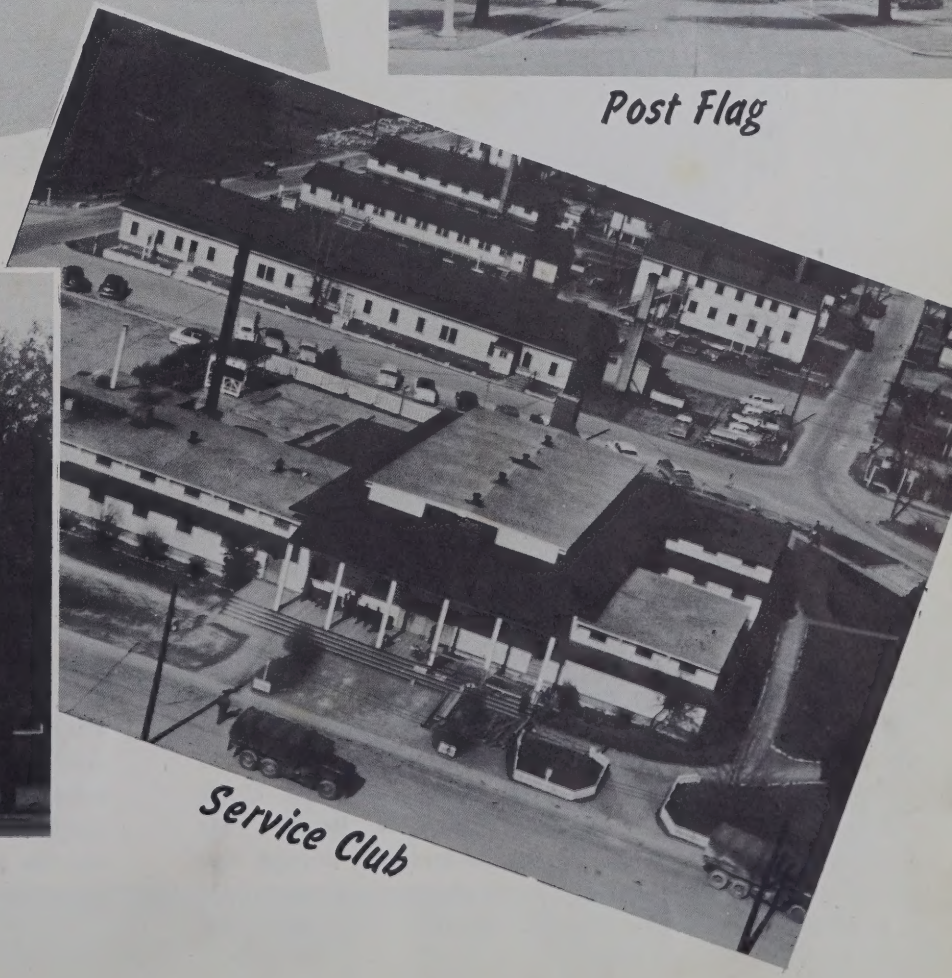


Library



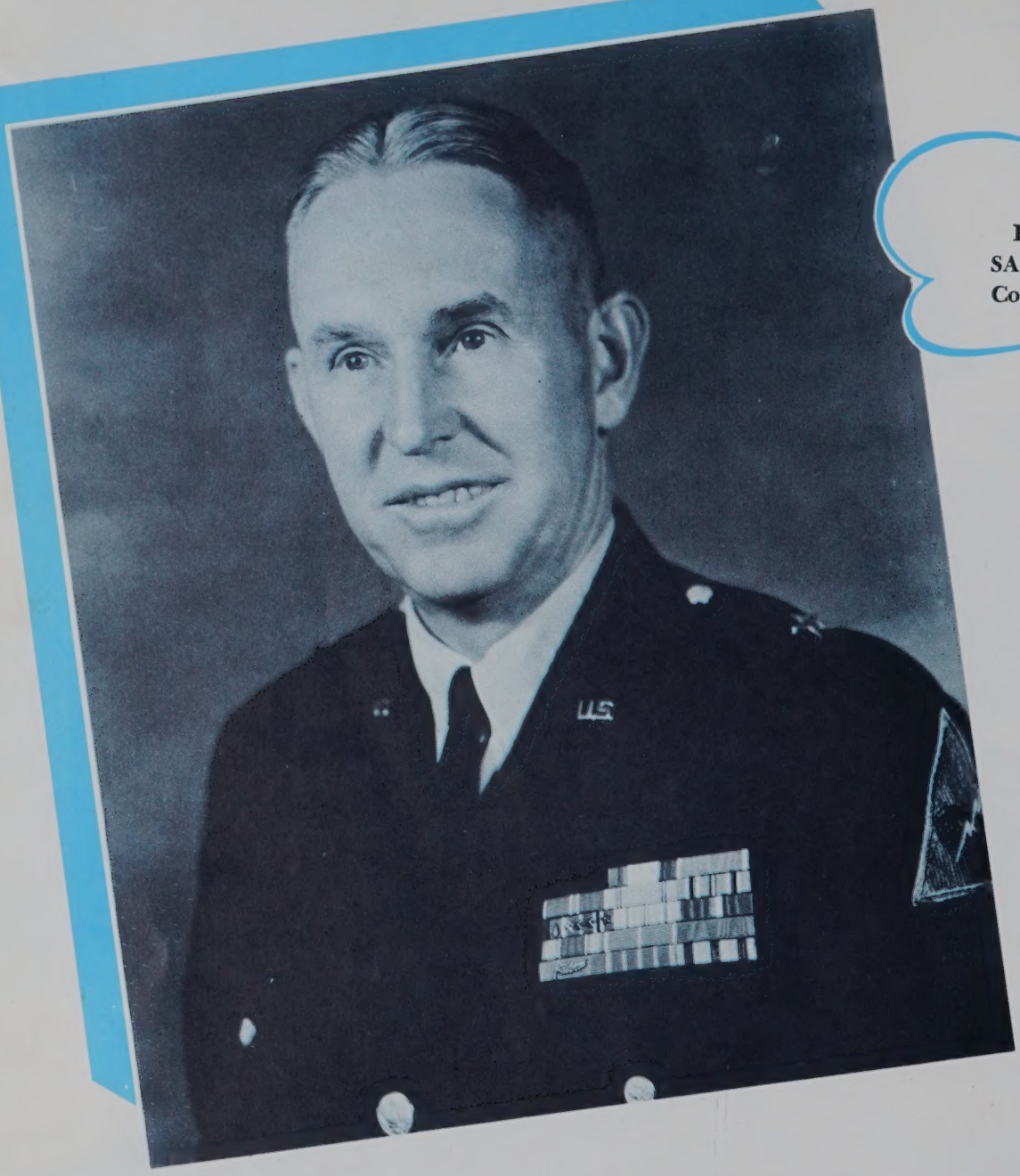
Country Club

Post Flag



Service Club

Post Headquarters



Brigadier General
SAMUEL L. MYERS
Commanding General

Brigadier General Samuel L. Myers, born at Martville, N. Y., on January 31, 1905, began his military career in 1923 when he enlisted as a private in Troop F, 101st Cavalry. He was discharged as a private first class for the purpose of entering the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., in June, 1924. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Cavalry, he served in all troop grades at posts in Texas, Kansas and the Philippine Islands.

During World War II, General Myers went overseas in 1942 with II Corps, making the invasion of North Africa. As a staff officer of the II Corps and as commanding officer of a special task force with the British First Army he took part in the Tunisian campaigns. He participated in the Sicilian invasion and was later named deputy chief of staff for operations with First U. S. Army, commanded by General Omar N. Bradley. He assisted in the planning of the invasion of Europe and was with First Army in all its European campaigns. He was redeployed from Europe to the Philippines with First Army in July 1945.

After the war, General Myers' major assignments included attendance at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; War Department general staff; Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment; Chief of Staff, III Corps; Chief of the Joint Plans Staff of the Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean; and Assistant Division Commander, 3d Armored Division.

Brigadier General Myers was selected to activate the Armored Replacement Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky., and serve as its commanding general in March 1955. The name of his command has been changed to the United States Army Training Center, Armor and its mission has been enlarged to embrace the training of volunteers on six-months active duty under the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 and Basic Combat Training for active Army personnel in addition to Armor and Specialists Advanced Individual Training.

HEADQUARTERS
THE UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER, ARMOR
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

TO THE PARENTS OF THE GRADUATES OF BASIC TRAINING

Successful completion of basic training is the first major accomplishment in every Army man's career. His ability to adapt himself to Army life and to meet the Army's high standards of performance is a credit not only to himself but also to his family and those others in his home community who have helped him to become a fine young American.

Our Army cannot achieve its mission as a member of the nation's defense team without the services of many thousands of young Americans who are willing to work hard and long to ensure that this country will be able to defend her precious freedom if the test comes.

Whether your son decides to make the Army his career, or prefers to return to civilian life upon completion of his present enlistment, he will need the encouragement and understanding of you at home in order to do his Army job successfully.

For our part, those of us in positions of leadership in the Army pledge our constant loyalty to him and concern for his best interests.

Working together, we can keep our Army the world's best and a great protector of freedom throughout the world.

Samuel L. Myers

SAMUEL L. MYERS
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

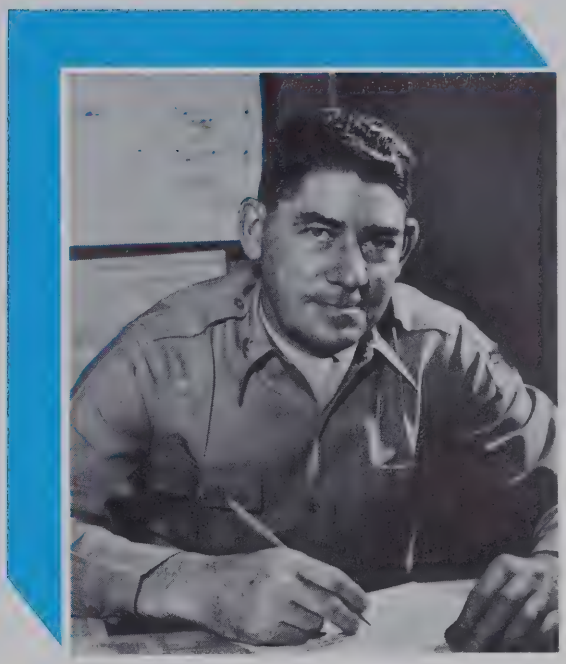
GENERAL STAFF

Colonel
JEFF F. HOLLIS
Chief of Staff

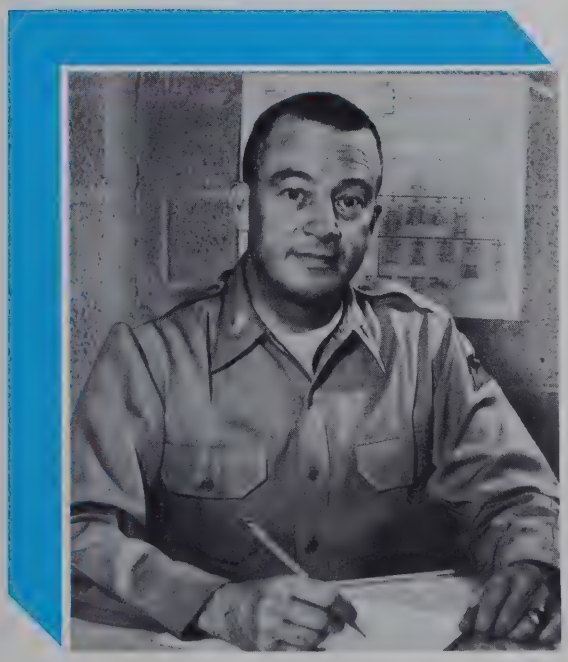
Colonel
JAMES F. LEWIS
Adjutant General

Lieutenant Colonel
ROSS H. BRYAN
G-1

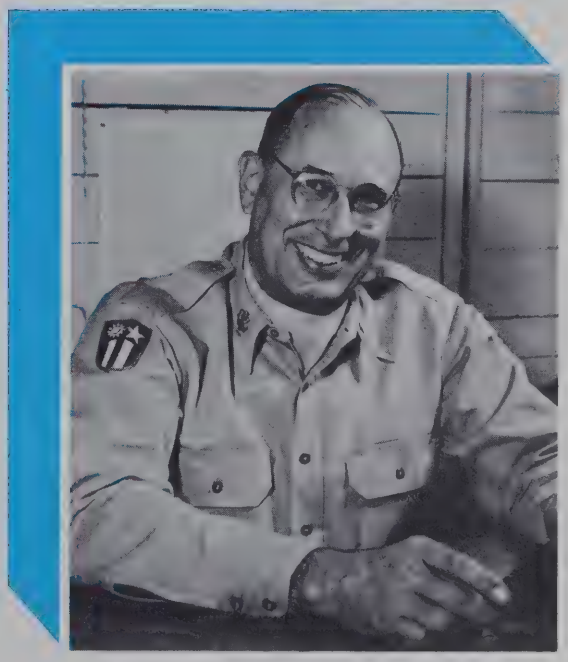
Major
HAROLD W. KEYSER
G-2



Lieutenant Colonel
CHARLES F. RYAN
G-3



Lieutenant Colonel
DORSEY H. CULLEN
G-4



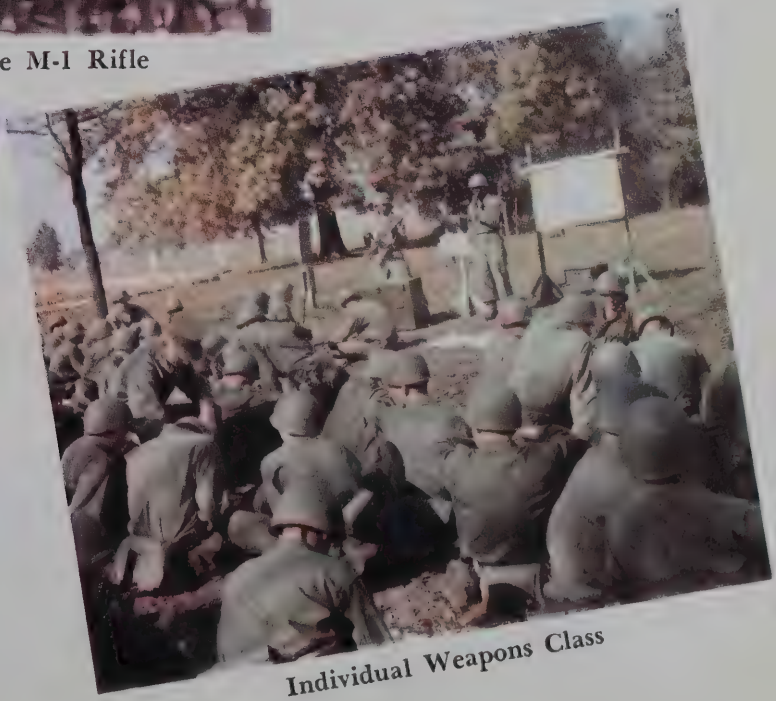
Lieutenant Colonel
MERT M. LAMPSON
Chaplain

Union Under God

Physical Training Obstacle Course

Loading the M-1 Rifle

Preliminary Rifle Instruction Course



Individual Weapons Class

The Basic Combat

Basic Combat Training at the United States Army Training Center, Armor is a team endeavor, requiring the maximum of both the new trainee and his superiors.

The main purpose of Basic Combat Training is the development of qualified riflemen, whose individual talents will be supplemented later through more specialized instruction.

Four training regiments are responsible for administering Basic Combat Training to Regular Army, Selective Service and Reserve Forces Act personnel at the USATCA. Carefully screened officers and non-commissioned officers are entrusted with the mission of transforming young civilians into well-trained and disciplined soldiers, prepared for efficient and honorable service.

A very intensive program, Basic Combat Training covers over thirty major subjects--from military courtesy to squad tactics. Major emphasis, however, is placed on mastery of the M-1 rifle, the basic weapon of the Infantry. More than a week is devoted to handling, maintaining and firing the 9½ pound weapon, and the trainee finds that it is practically his constant companion throughout the training cycle. When he completes Basic Combat Training, the trainee realizes that his weapon is his "best friend" in combat.

In order to obtain the maximum from Basic Combat Training, a man's physical condition must be continually improving. This is achieved through daily participation in the "Army Daily Dozen"--a series of calisthenics designed to harden muscles, slim waist lines and increase physical stamina. In addition to intensive exercise, the trainee's physical condition is improved by good food and a well-balanced diet.

Trainees also receive instruction in such varied subjects as bayonet drill, first aid, interior guard duty, camoflage and concealment, mines and booby traps, signal communications, field sanitation, intelligence, night vision, battle indoctrination, map and compass reading.

They learn that combat, unlike a baseball game, is not postponed because of darkness or inclement weather. Combat conditions are simulated whenever possible and practicable, so that the men can be taught what to expect in the event of national emergency.

During the seventh week, trainees live in the field as combat soldiers. They "rough it" by sleeping in tents, eating outdoors from mess kits and waging a constant battle against the elements. The trainees also participate in mock battles against "Agressor" troops from their own company, who are dressed in different uniforms and instructed to attack and harass when least expected.

Approximately 180 men train together in a company, with each company broken down into four platoons, that occupy four barracks. Each platoon is

directly commanded by a platoon sergeant, a well-trained and highly-qualified soldier, who is usually a combat veteran of World War II or the Korean conflict. He is with his men from reveille to retreat and often during the evening hours for informal and instructive "bull sessions."

The platoon is also broken down--into four squads of about a dozen men. Squads are directed to fellow trainees with unusually high aptitudes and leadership qualities.

The squad and platoon systems instill in the trainees a pride in each of these units and there is always spirited competition for the designation of "best squad" or "best platoon." Trainees become endowed with a formidable esprit de corps and a sense of unit identification.

Instruction in the various Basic Combat Training subjects is given by specially trained officers and non-commissioned officers from regimental instructor groups. An instructor group is similar in structure to a college or university factulty, with each "professor" a specialist in his field, who also has the ability to pass on his knowledge to the trainees. In addition to formal instruction from regimental personnel, the trainees receive individual instruction from their platoon sergeants. Contrary to popular belief, the Army isn't an impersonal organization. Each trainee at USATCA receives all the individual attention necessary for the development of a competent soldier.

While Basic Combat Training is necessarily intensive, because there is a great deal to be taught in a comparatively short period, the men receive an ample amount of free time for recreation. Fort Knox is a large city with excellent recreational facilities. Men can participate in any sport, or read books from well-stocked libraries. There are large swimming pools and baseball and football fields near company areas. Convenient service clubs provide the trainees with excellent facilities for letter-writing, reading, listening to music and just plain talking. Weekly dances and shows are also held in each service club and the latest movies are shown at the post theatres.

Trainees also visit nearby Louisville, a large, progressive community with impressive recreational and cultural facilities. Tours are also arranged to Mammoth Cave, the birthplaces of Abraham Lincoln and Daniel Boone, Stephen Foster's "Old Kentucky Home" and the beauutiful Bluegrass Region.

The trainee's spiritual life is highly stressed during Basic Combat Training at USATCA. Character guidance lectures from Training Center chaplains are an integral part of the training curriculum and the men are encouraged to attend services of their choice at one of the many post chapels. The chaplains are also available for individual discussions with the men at any time.

Thus, the Basic Combat Training program at USATCA may be considered two-fold. While the development of a well-trained soldier is naturally stressed, the development of a man is not forgotten. Upon completion of Basic Combat Training, the trainee is not only a trained rifleman; he is also a worthy citizen of his community and his nation.

Close Combat Course

Transition Range

Log Fence – Transition Range

Close Combat Course

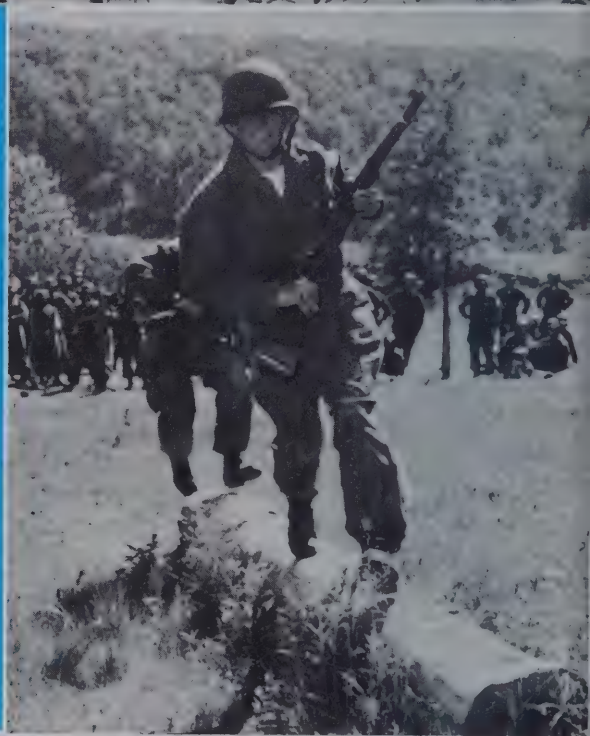
Rifle Grenades

.30 Cal Light Machine Gun

4.2 Rocket Launcher

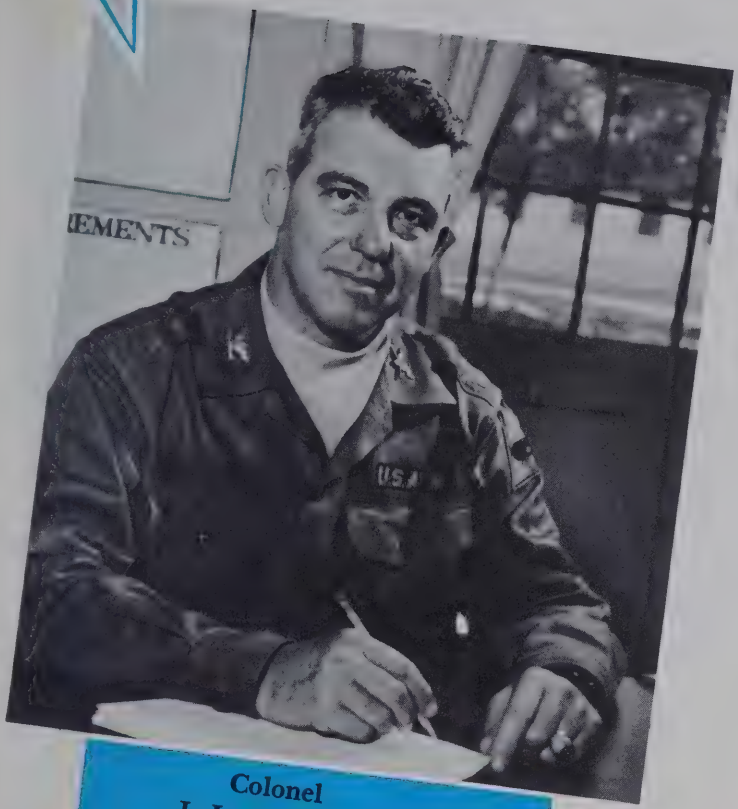
Combat Course

Hand Grenades



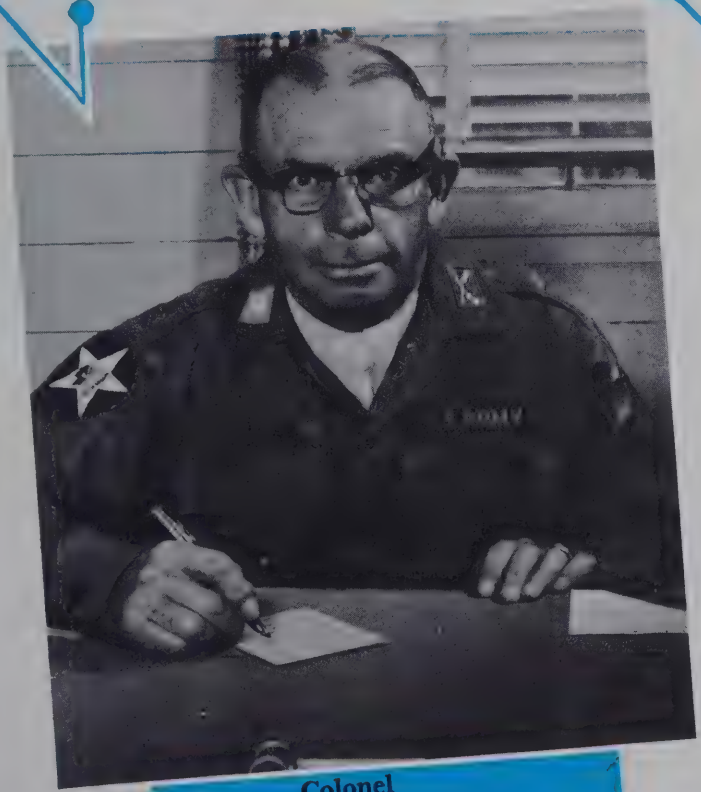
U.S. ARMY

REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS

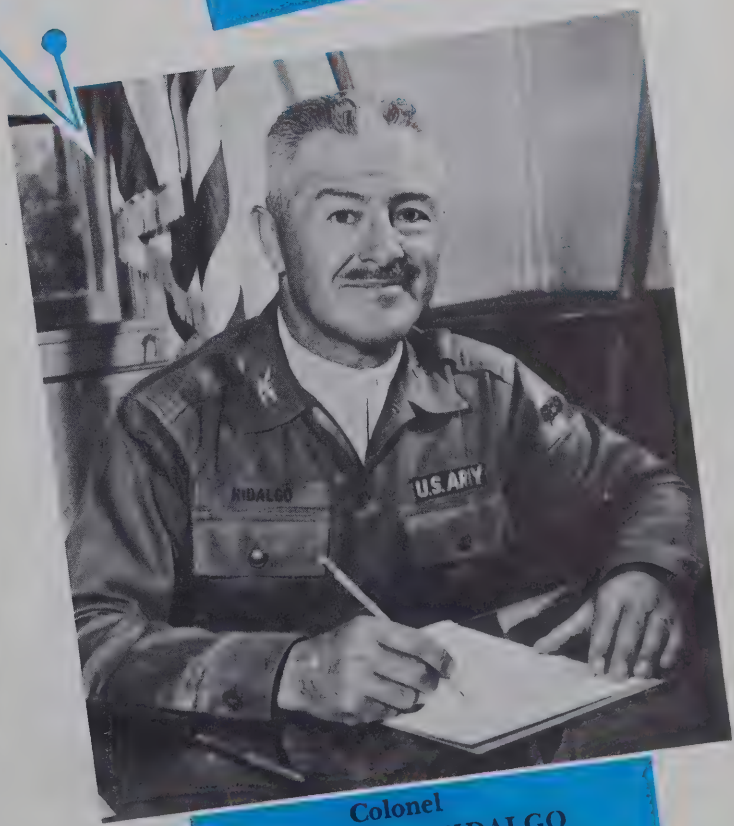


Colonel
J. L. ROGERS
2d Training Regiment, Armor

Colonel
ALLEN F. RICE
3d Training Regiment, Infantry



Colonel
FRANCIS H. BOOS
4th Training Regiment, Infantry



Colonel
VINCENT M. HIDALGO
5th Training Regiment, Infantry

Map Reading

Gas Mask Drill

Gas Chamber

First Aid — Leg Splint

Squad Formation Class

THE TROOPS ARRIVE AND PROCESSING BEGINS

PROCESSING—Before the training cycle actually begins, the trainees undergo what is known as processing. Clothing is fitted and issued; teeth are checked, fingerprints taken, immunization shots received and aptitude tests administered. In addition to its practical side, processing presents a gradual adjustment to Army life.

HAIRCUT'S

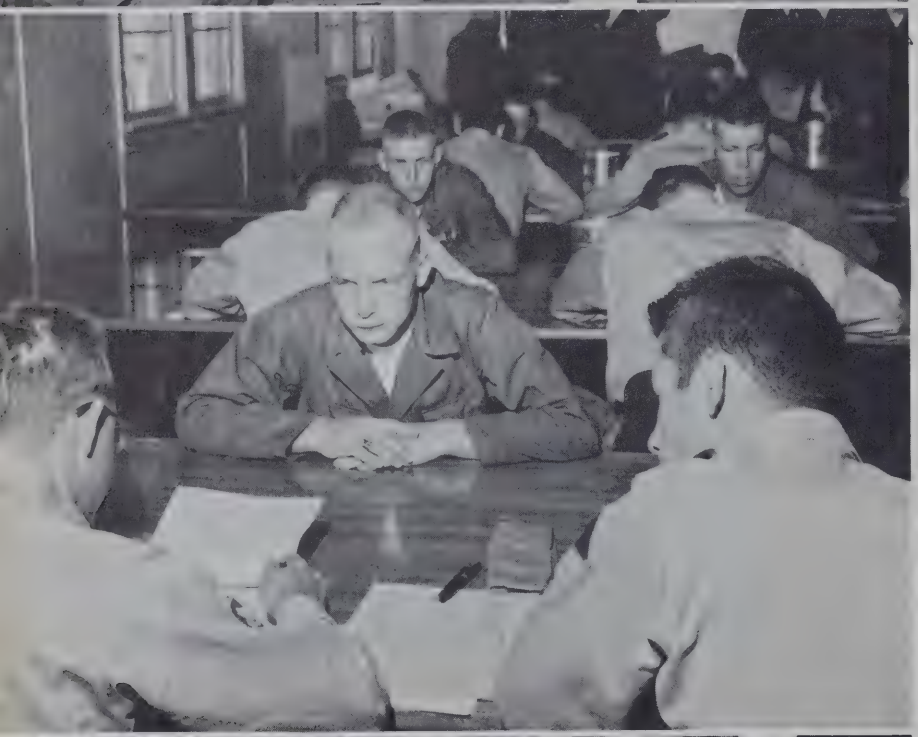
HAIRCUTS—Everything in the Army must be uniform--including hair styles. Trainees receive that first regulation haircut during the processing period and must keep their hair short and well-groomed throughout the training cycle.

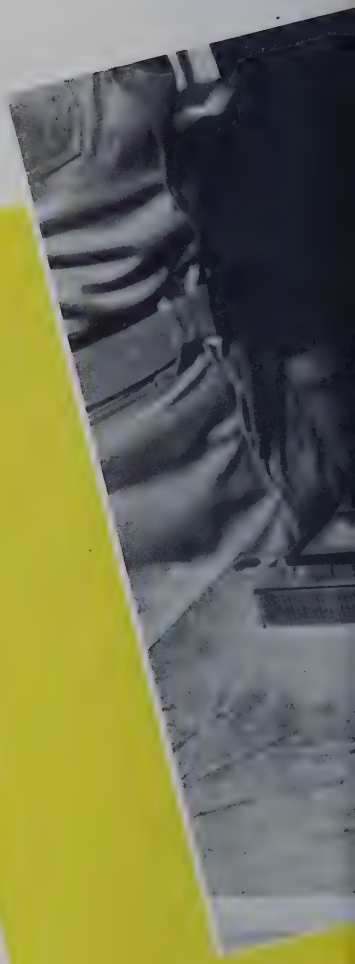
MEDICAL AND DENTAL CHECK

MEDICAL AND DENTAL CHECK—A healthy soldier is a good soldier and the Army does everything possible to not only maintain, but also improve the health of its men.

CLOTHING

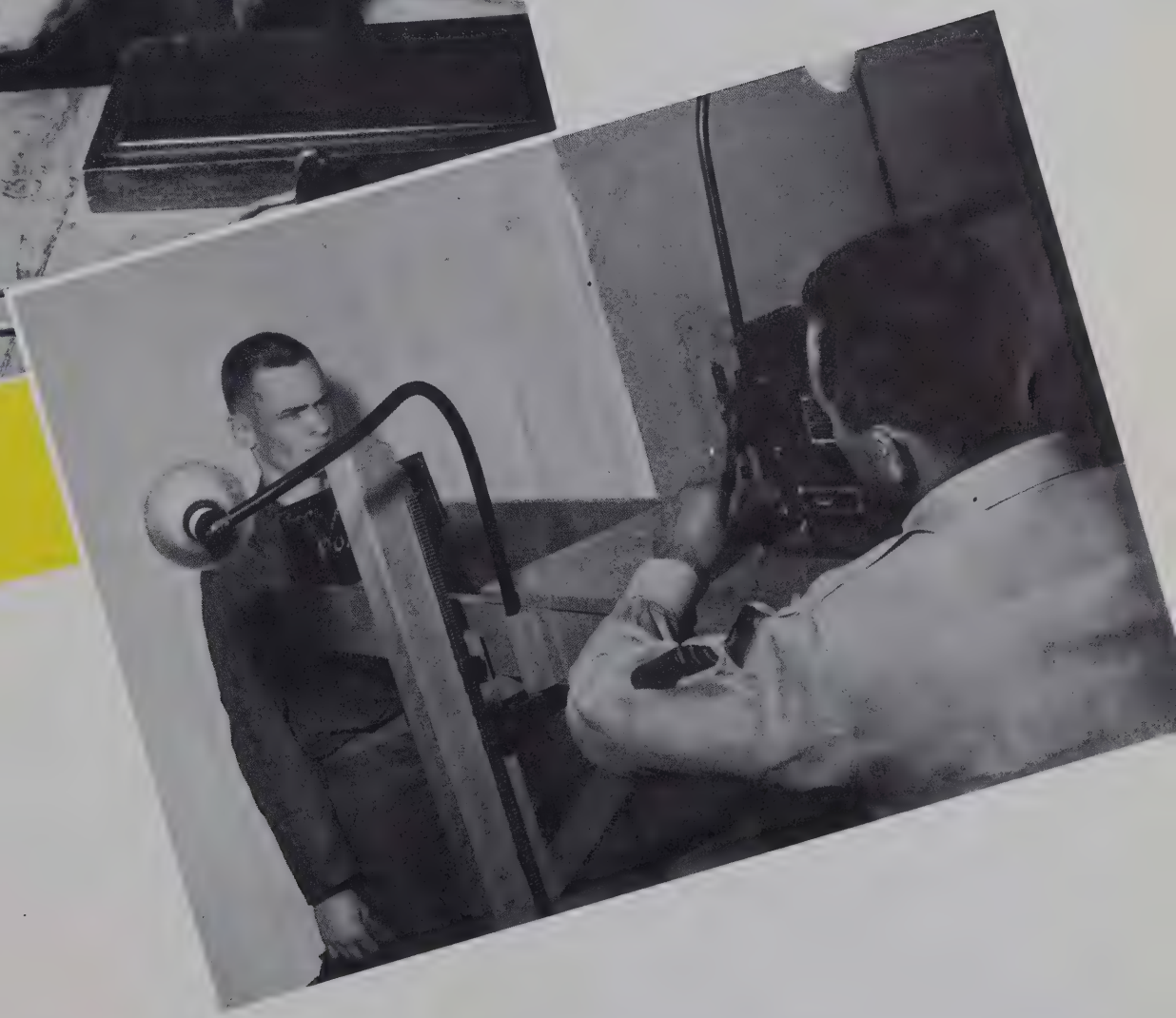
ISSUE





RECORDS CHECK AND CLASSIFICATION—The Army strives to use every man in a field in which his talents may be best utilized and developed. Therefore, early in his military career, the trainee's educa-

RECORDS CHECK AND CLASSIFICATION



tion, training and work experience is carefully recorded for future reference. This information, supplemented by the results of aptitude tests help the Army choose the field in which the man will eventually serve.

COMMANDING GENERAL'S ORIENTATION—An impressive ceremony marks the Commanding General's orientation address early in the training cycle. At that time, the Commanding General greets the new men, explains what they will learn, and what is expected of them as soldiers.

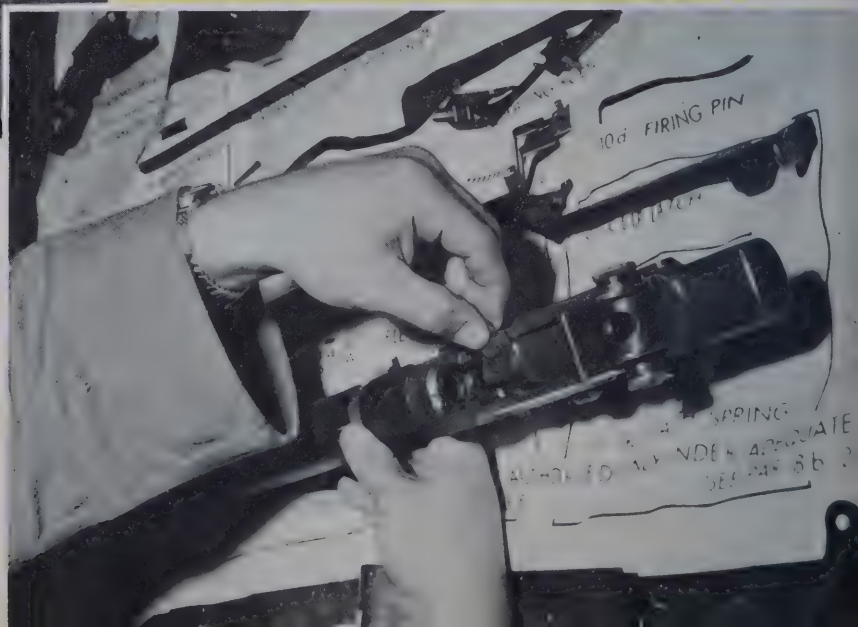
COMMANDING GENERAL'S ORIENTATION

PARADE PRACTICE

PARADE PRACTICE—Many hours of drill transform young civilians into disciplined, skillful soldiers. Troop movements are best achieved when the soldiers are well-drilled in marching. The trainees soon exhibit their skills in battalion and regimental reviews.

M-1 RIFLE—Learning to handle and maintain the M-1 rifle, the "soldier's best friend," occupies a large segment of the eight-week cycle. A soldier who knows the mechanics well, is in a position to become an expert when he actually fires the weapon on the range.

M-1
MECHANICAL TRAINING



M-1

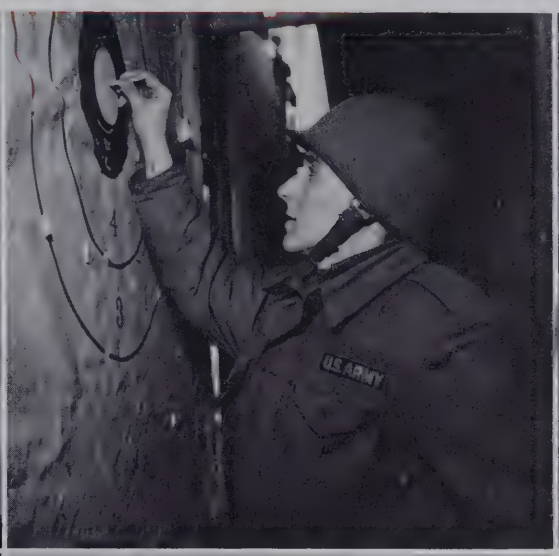
P.R.I. CIRCLE

PRI CIRCLE—On the preliminary rifle instruction circle, the trainee learns the fundamentals of proper position, sighting procedure and the importance of the initials, **BRASS** (breathe, relax, aim, slack and squeeze.)

47

K-D RANGE

K-D RANGE—After mastering the fundamentals, the trainees fire on the known distance range. They must attain a qualifying score on the range before they can successfully complete their basic training. The Army feels, with justification, that there's nothing quite so important in combat as the skillful use of the rifle.



M-1 TRANSITION RANGE

TRANSITION RANGE AND TECHNIQUE OF FIRE – The Transition Range and Technique of Fire exercises are provided as a means by which the trainee can be taught the use of his M-1 rifle as an effective weapon in combat. All types of covers are provided from which fire can be directed.

TECHNIQUE OF FIRE

CHOW TIME

..BUT I DON'T WANT POTATOES IN MY ICE CRE...

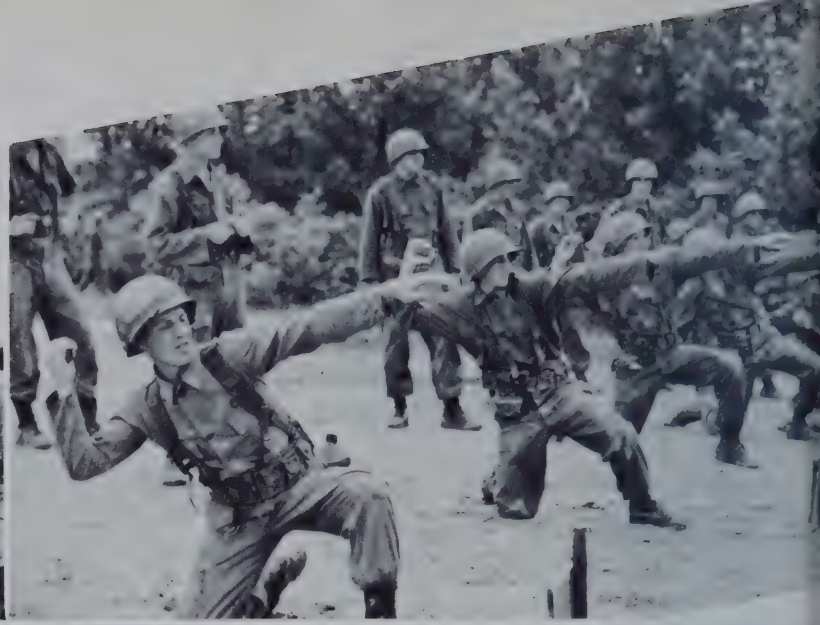
INNOCULATIONS "SHOTS"

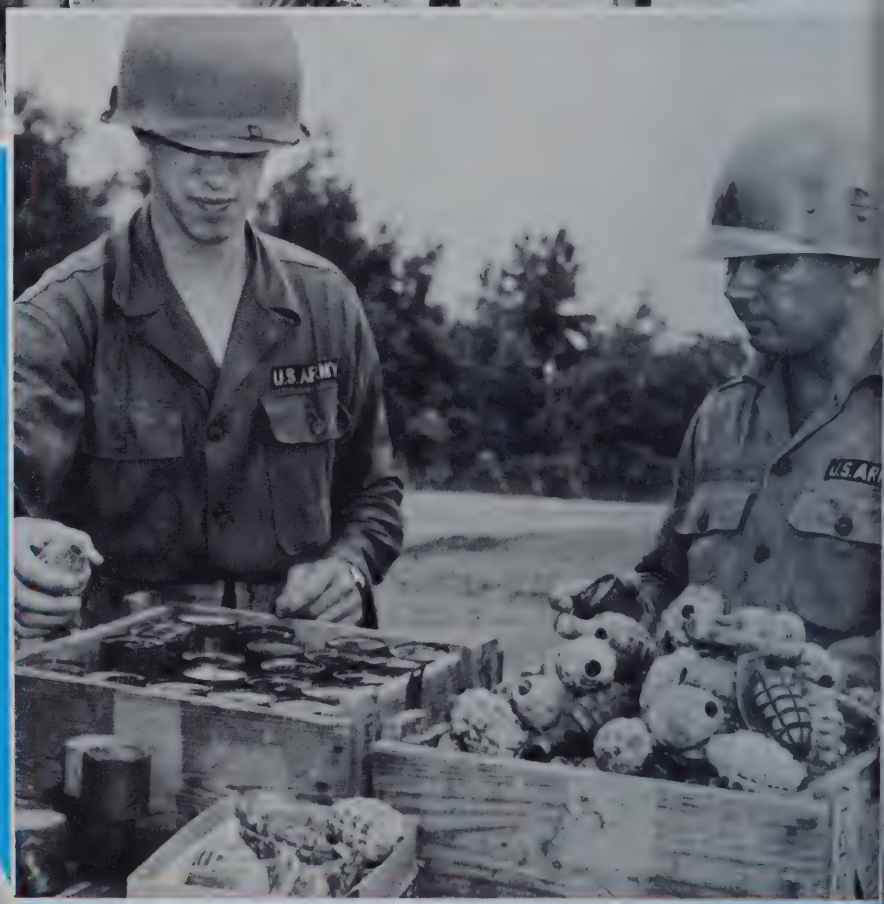
INNOCULATIONS—Shots are not only fired from weapons during basic combat training. They are also ejected from the business end of hypodermic needles. During the eight weeks, the men are inoculated against tetanus, typhoid, smallpox and polio. The men feel that the slight discomfort caused by the shots is worth bearing for protection against the dread diseases.

CARBINE TRAINING

CARBINE—The carbine, a versatile, hard-hitting weapon, is a smaller edition of the now-familiar M-1. Trainees learn all about it, just as they learn everything possible about the M-1---from cleaning to firing. Trainees also fire the carbine--at shorter distances--for familiarization.

HAND AND RIFLE GRENADES





HAND AND RIFLE GRENADES

GRENADES—Hand and rifle grenades enable the riflemen to destroy enemy objectives at close range and serve to fill the gap between the M-1 rifle and the bayonet. Both offer effective and potent firepower when properly used.

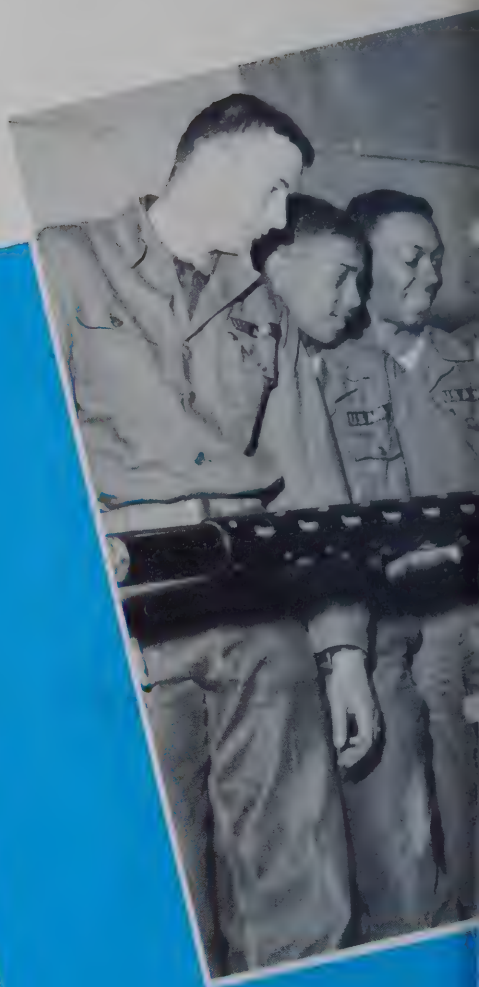
CLOSE

CLOSE COMBAT COURSE— Close combat training, under simulated combat conditions, is designed to teach the trainee to apply what he learned during formal instruction. The trainees are grouped into small teams which advance over ground covered with obstacles

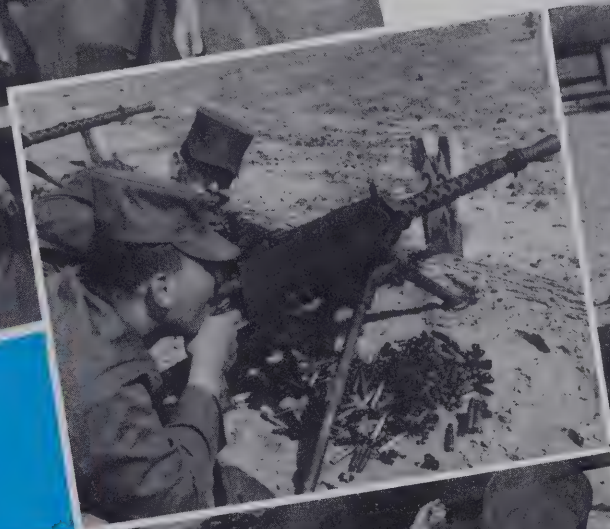
COMBAT

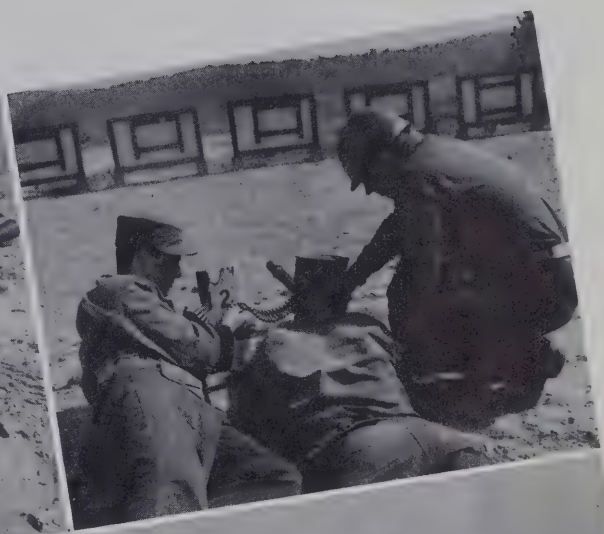
of various kinds. As they advance, targets suddenly appear and are fired upon. The course teaches the men to stay alert, ready to use their weapons at a moment's notice and gives them confidence in themselves, and their buddies.

GUN MACHINE CAL. .30, BROWNING, M1919A4



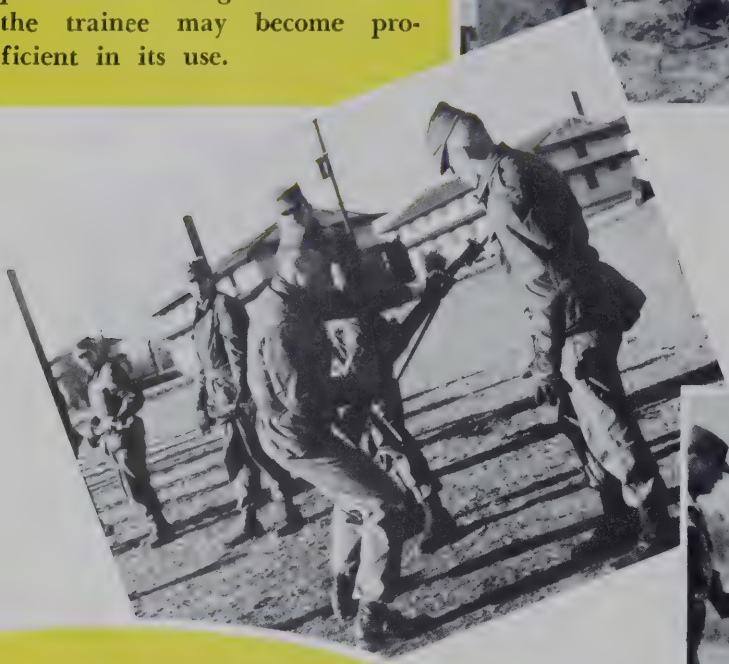
LIGHT MACHINE GUN TRAINING

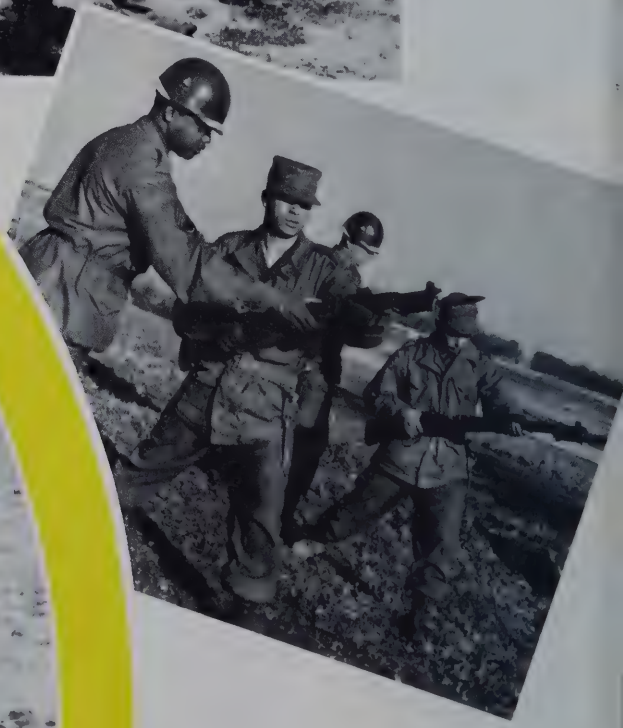




LIGHT MACHINE GUN — With a maximum rate of 650 to 700 rounds and an effective range of 700 yards, it is quite obvious that the light machine gun can deliver the greatest volume of fire of any weapon in the rifle platoon. Mechanical training on this weapon and the subsequent firing on the 1000" range is designed to give the combat trainee a basic knowledge of its use.

BAYONET – The bayonet as an offensive weapon of surprise and silence is the final weapon used against the enemy in every assault. To be used properly and with the force that would be required against an actual enemy all of the positions and group assault tactics are studied and practiced for long hours so that the trainee may become proficient in its use.





BAYONET

TRAINING

BARRACKS

BARRACKS—Life is many things, but it's never lonely. New soldiers find many others with similar interests and there's always a steady stream of conversation among the trainees. In the barracks, the men become more than a squad or platoon. They become buddies.

MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS

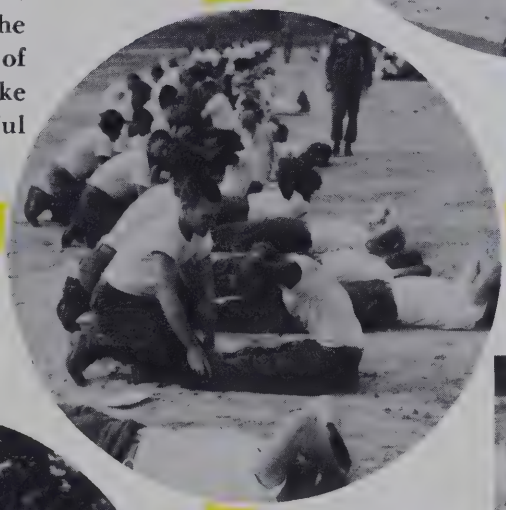
MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS—While the Engineers are specialists in mines and booby traps, every soldier must become familiar with their functions. Trainees learn the principles and techniques of mine warfare, types and functioning of various mines, trip flares and traps, plus disarming and probing for enemy mines.

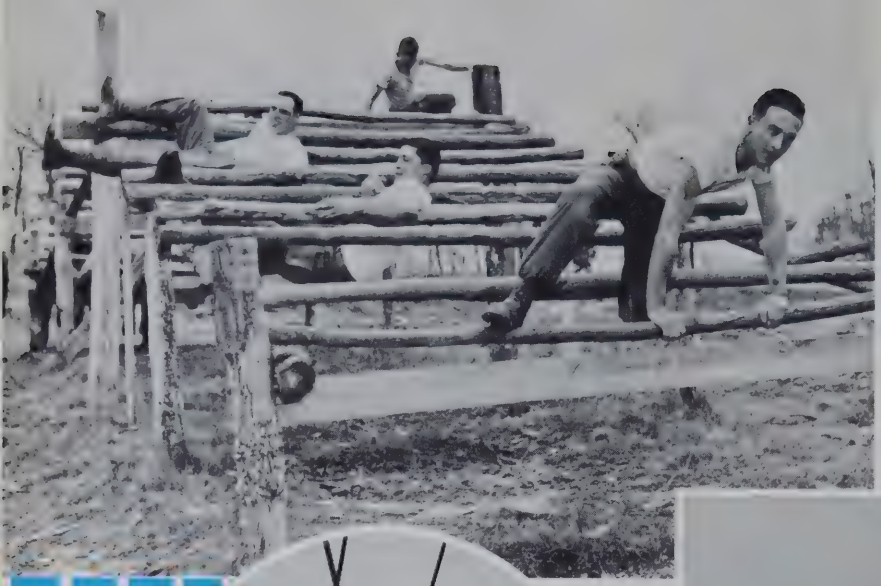
PHYSICAL

PHYSICAL TRAINING—Men in good physical condition have a far better chance of doing their duty in combat and living through their experience—therefore, the trainee is called upon to perform

TRAINING

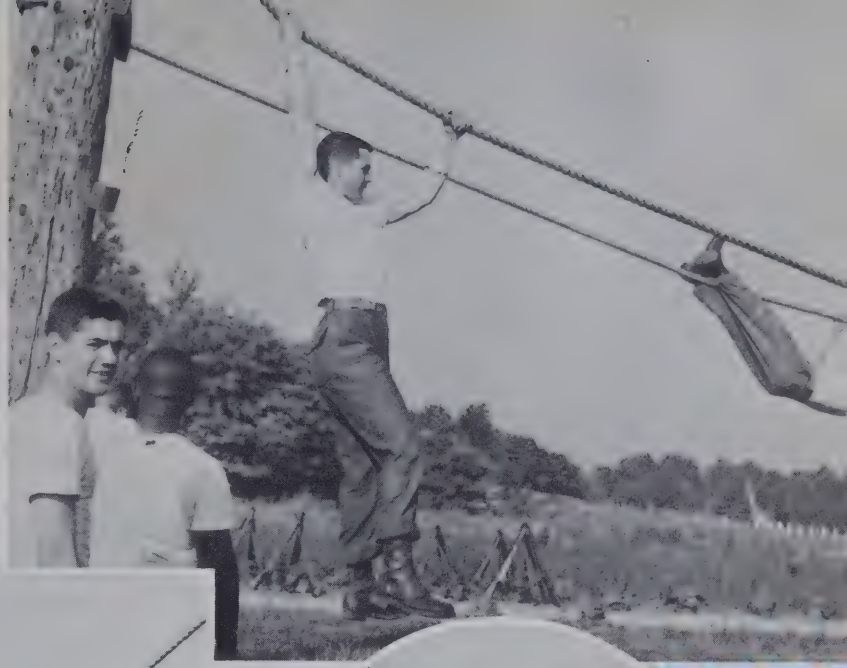
trenuous duties during his period of basic training. He s urged to set for himself the highest possible standard of physical fitness as it will make for a much more successful Army life.





CONFIDENCE COURSE

CONFIDENCE COURSE—The confidence course is designed to toughen the trainees and develop self-confidence. Some of the tests are easy, while others are extremely difficult. Most trainees, however, thoroughly enjoy seeing what they can do.



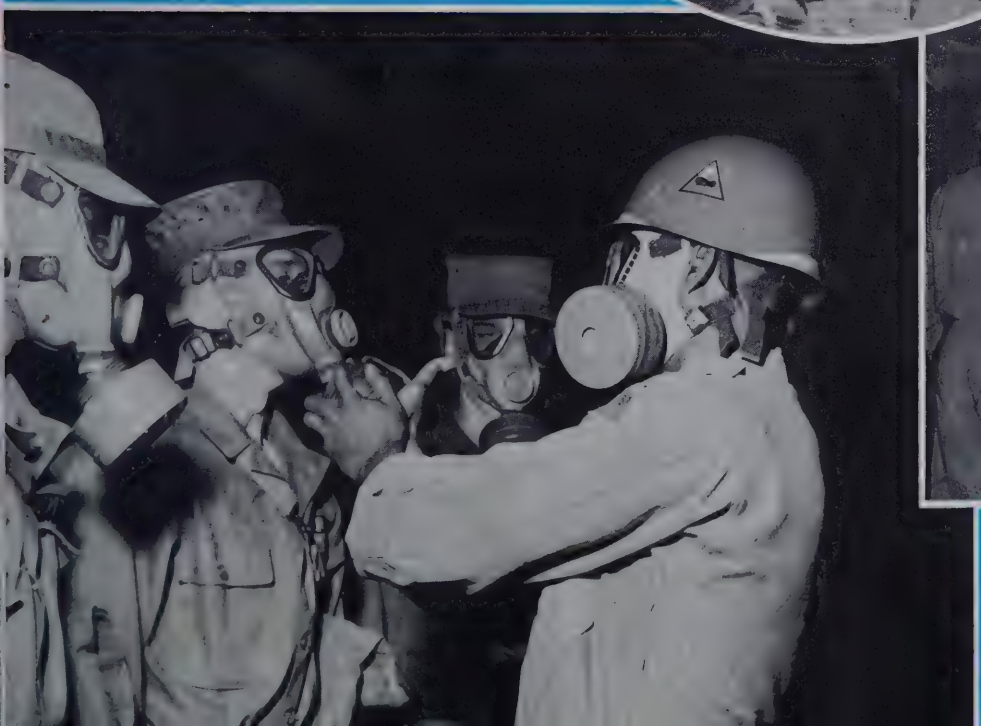
INFILTRATION COURSE

INFILTRATION COURSE — Probably the most realistic element of basic combat training is the rugged infiltration course, aimed at testing the individual foot soldier in tough terrain as a machine gun fires rounds just over his head. The course, run in daylight and at night, is designed to give trainees a lasting impression of actual combat conditions, and to ready him for its terrific demands.

PROTECTION AGAINST CBR ATTACK—In spite of weapons in the past, the Army must be prepared in the event of possible future attack. Accordingly all trainees must

CHAMBER

know how to protect themselves against CBR attacks through the use of the gas mask and other protectives, and how to advance during combat when CBR agents are present.

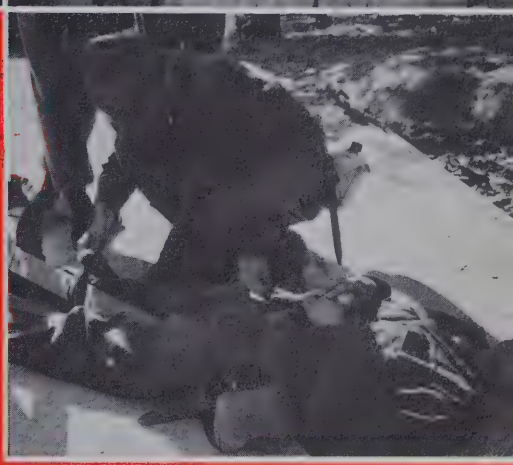


PATROLLING

GUARD MOUNT

INSPECTION

GUARD MOUNT AND GUARD DUTY — Guard duty is important. The manual for court martial provides severe punishment for violations of orders by sentinels and guards. There are eleven general orders to guide the trainee in performing guard duty. He must learn these word for word and understand their meaning.



FIRST AID

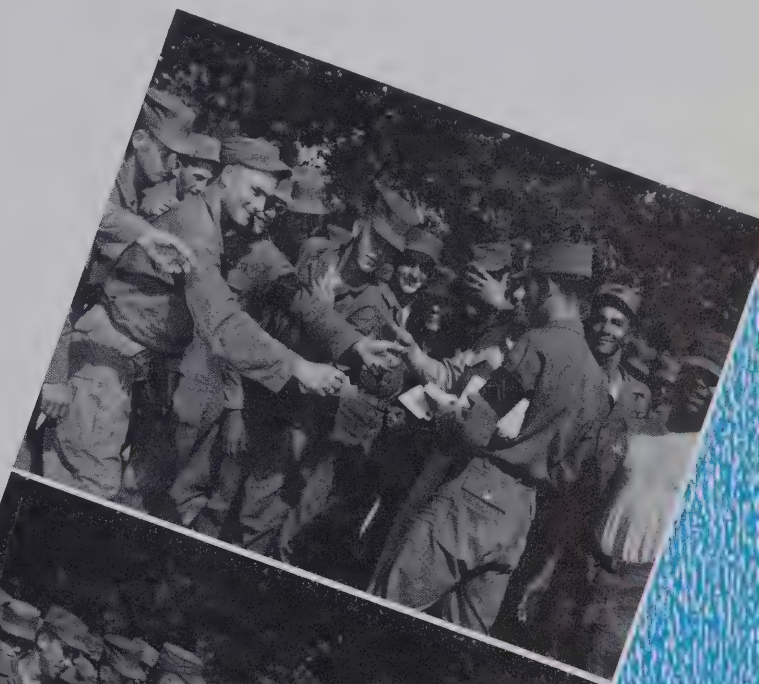
FIRST AID—A soldier's life or the life of his buddy may depend on the quick application of first aid. The importance of training in first aid was proven during World War II and the Korean conflict, when many men survived because their buddies knew how to give them necessary aid.

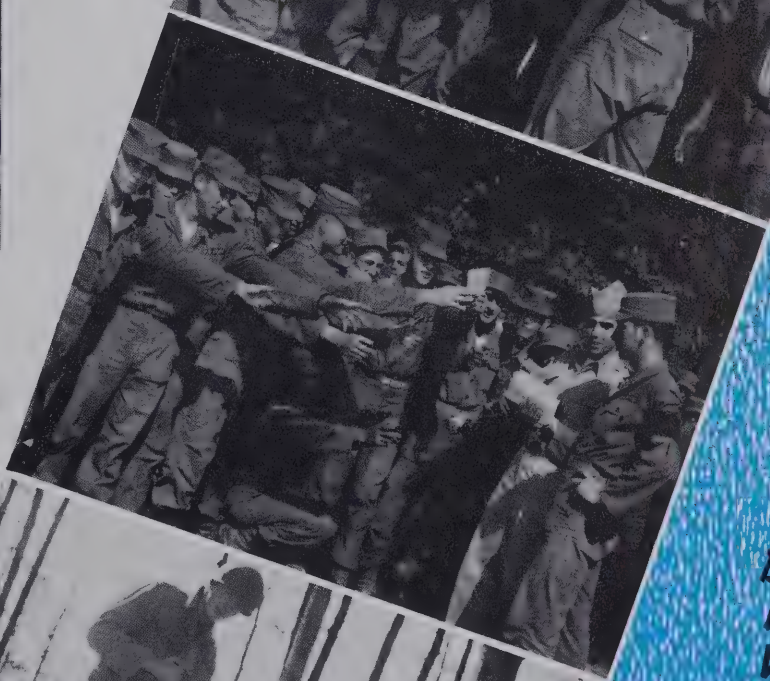
MAPS AND COMPASS

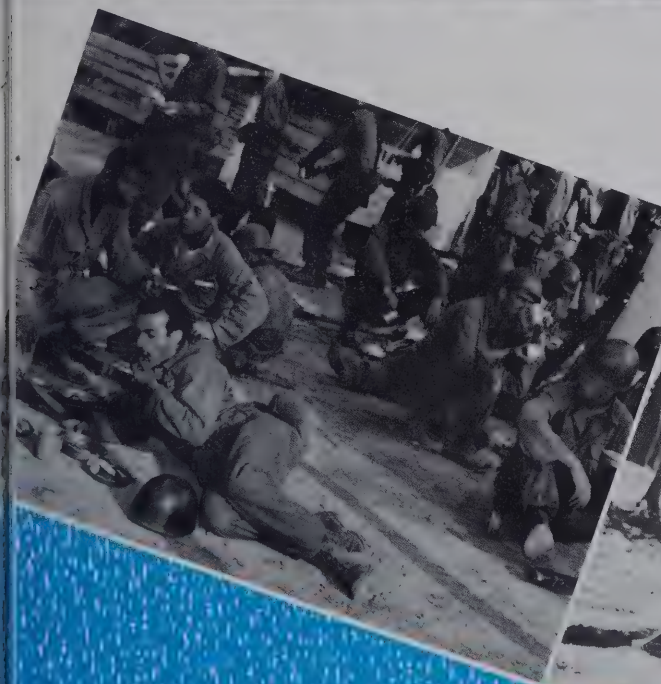
MAP READING AND COMPASS—A good soldier has to know how to read a map and compass. He must be able to locate himself on the map at all times in order to select correct routes or report enemy information properly.

BIVOUAC
U.S. ARMY

BIVOUAC—One of the most important phases of basic combat training comes near the end of the cycle when the men spend a week in the field on bivouac. The trainees learn, during this week, to live, fight and survive in the field under realistic combat conditions. Bivouac enables the men to apply everything they learned earlier in the training cycle and to determine just how valuable the training has been.





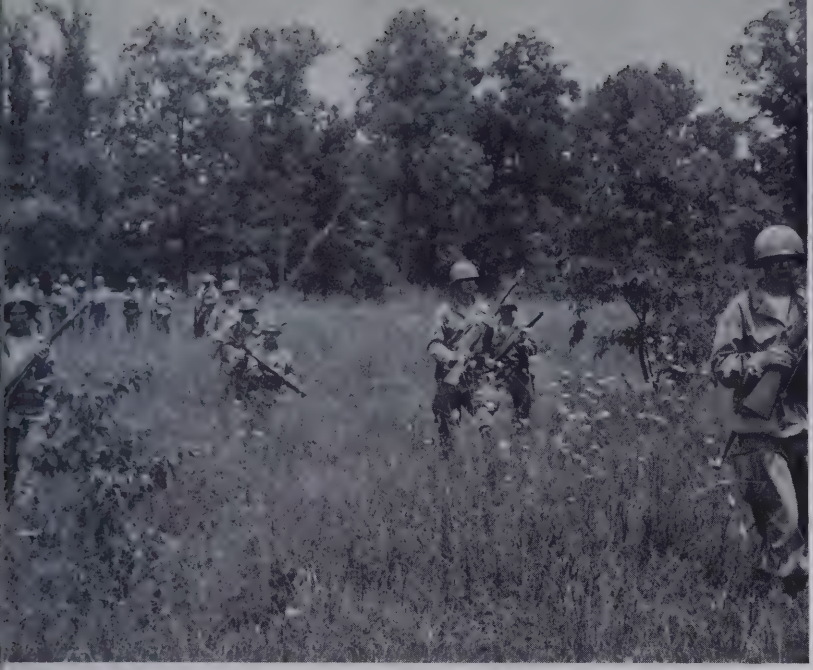


BIVOUAC

ROCKET LAUNCHER

ROCKET LAUNCHER — A rocket launcher team must be capable of swift coordinated action against tanks, gun implacements and fortifications. A trainee is taught how to disassemble and assemble the rocket launcher, the correct firing positions, and how to track a moving target.

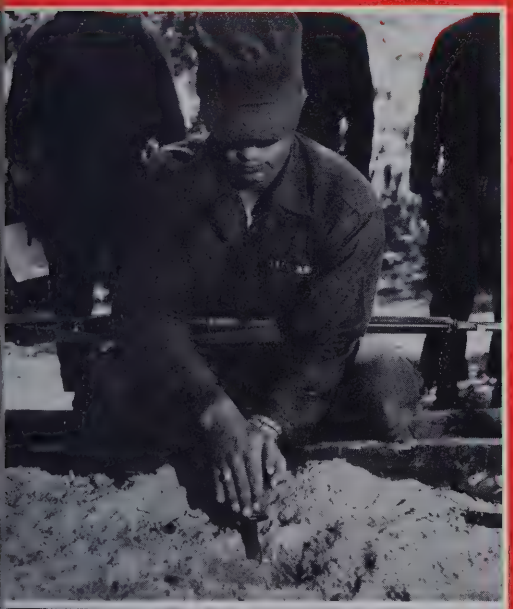
SQUAD TACTICS

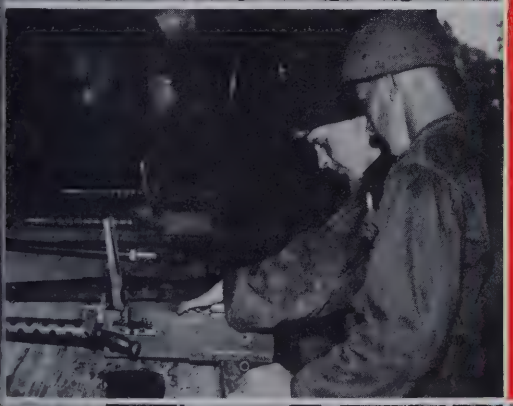


SQUAD TACTICS — Once a man learns to handle himself, he must learn to work with others. The well-trained nine-man rifle squad, organized effectively, is a plenty potent fighting force. In squad tactics training, the new soldier gains necessary grounding in the squad's role in combat. He learns his functions as part of this sharp fighting team, and develops an appreciation of how the individual skills he's mastered should fit into the infantry warfare picture.

INDIVIDUAL PROFICIENCY TESTING

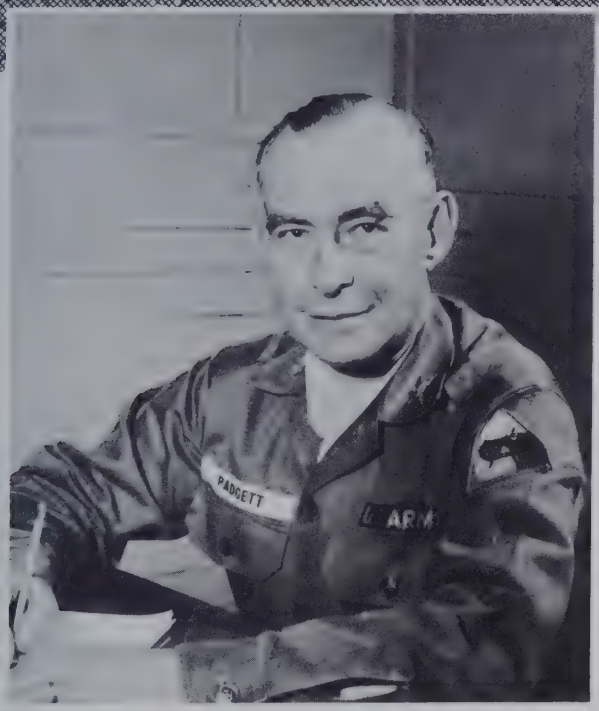
PROFICIENCY TESTS — How well did the trainee learn it all? Final proficiency tests find the answers. From compass reading to first aid, the trainee must prove himself completely proficient — and fully worthy of graduation. Every "station" along the test route provides another measure of progress. And the trainee must score high all the way to convince the Army he's ready for bigger assignments. It's a tough test, and those who pass it have jumped a major Army hurdle.





GRADUATION

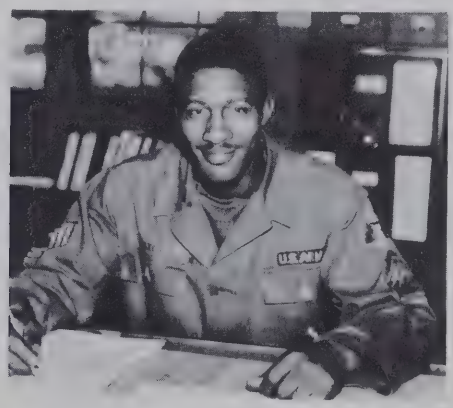
Headquarters
12th Battalion
4th Training Regiment, Infantry



Lieutenant Colonel
EDMOND J. PADGETT
Battalion Commander

Major
DELMAR O. FRYE
Executive Officer

2/Lt.
THOMAS W. LOVE
Adjutant



M/Sgt.
GEORGE E. SAXON
Sergeant Major

M/Sgt.
RICHARD ROBERTS
S-4 Sergeant

Pvt. B. J. SCARBONE
Pfc. R. ROSENTHAL
Pvt. C. R. HOLMES

Company B 12th Training Battalion

1/Lt.
THURMAN H. RHODUS
Company Commander

M/Sgt.
STEDMAN R. CONNOR
1/Sgt.

SFC
DENNIS FARMER
Field 1st Sgt.

S.F.C. KING
P.F.C. HAMILTON
Supply

Company Clerks

COOK'S

CADRE

Allison, Samuel D., Jr.

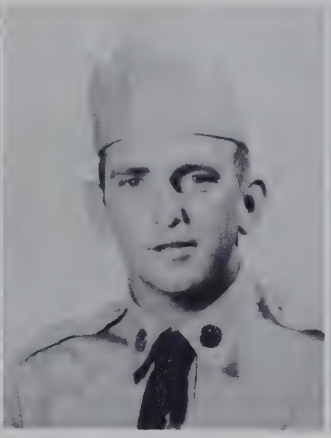
Annesi, Louis F.

Appleby, Richard E.

Ayers, Benjamin F.

Ayers, Gerald D.

Bailey, Wilbur W.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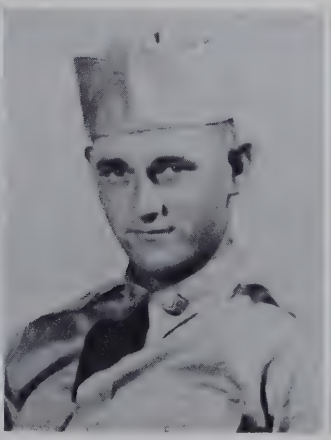
Balding, Arvil R.

Bart, Charles A.

Becker, Ronald A.

Belcher, John H.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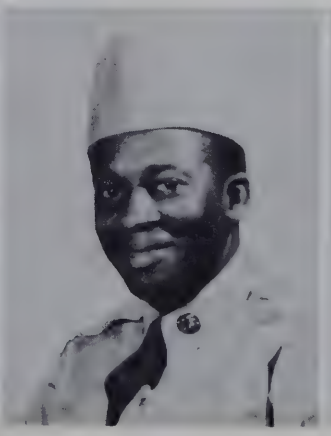
Bishop, Joe F.

Black, Luther G., Jr.

Bladen, Ralph M.


Borders, Walter B.

Bowles, Dillard

Boyd, Raymon W.

Bozzo, Frank T.

Bradshaw, Grover L.

Brooks, Jessie, Jr.

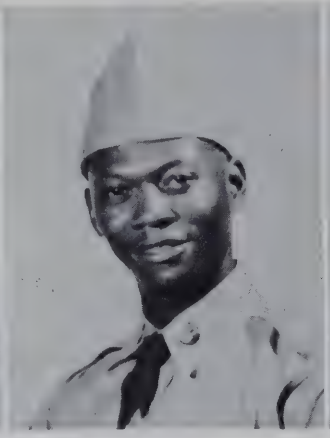
Browning, Roy R.

Bryant, Bennie, Jr.

Buchanan, Robert L.

Buck, Wayne T.

Butler, Grant M.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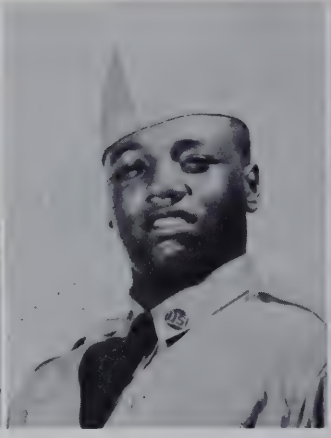
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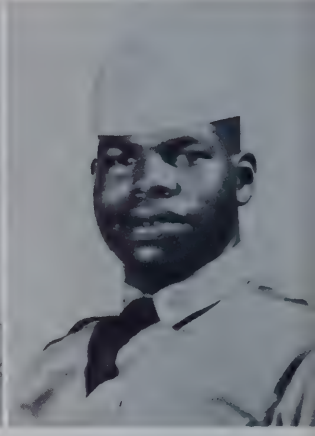
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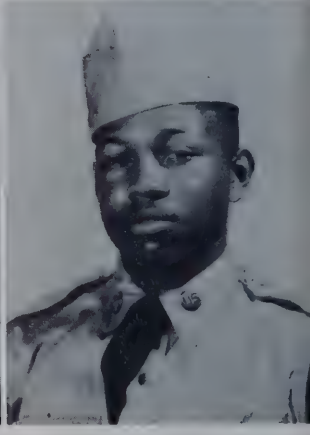
Cantrell, Bloomfield B.

Carroll, John H.

Carvalho, Manuel L.

Cassidy, Charles J.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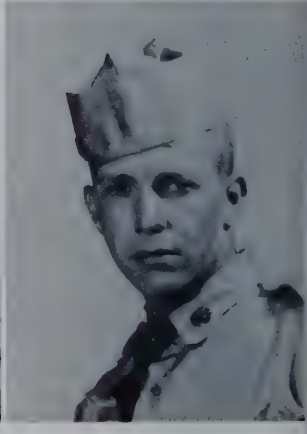
Clarke, Guy G.

Clements, Don L.

Clements, Edward V.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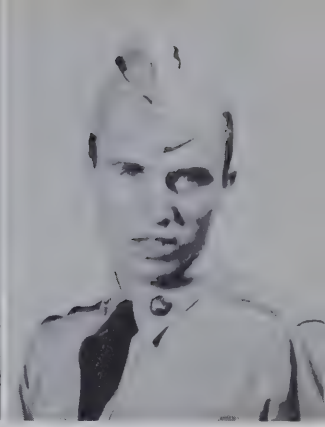
Coradi, Vincent M.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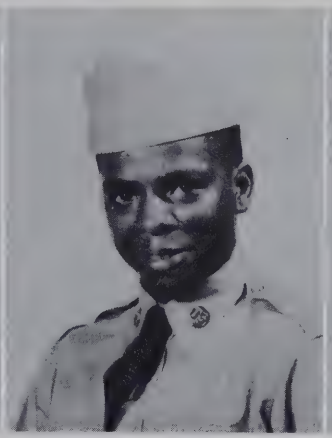
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Cullins, James E.

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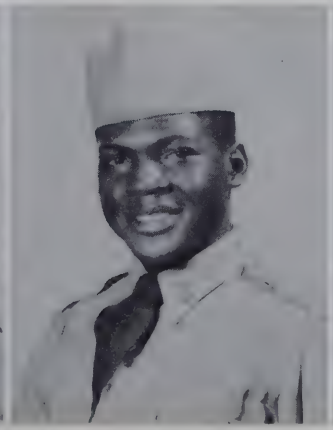
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Duncan, Jack J.

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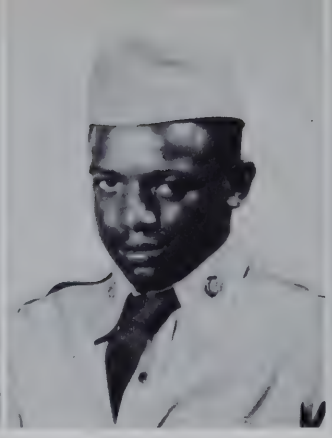
Ernst, Robert C.

Foresman, John E., Jr.



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Fulmer, George W.

Galloway, Alonzo A.

Geyer, Lester D.

Gilbert, James L.

Gladden, James W.

Glenn, Lloyd C.

Goggans, William J.

Goldin, Tommy C.

Gonzales, Nicholas G.

Good, Herbert A.

Greenwood, Gene R.

Griggs, James H.

Gunderson, Allan

Hackenberger, George E.

Hall, Buddie L.

Harlow, David S.

Henry, Lionel E.

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Herron, Terrell W.

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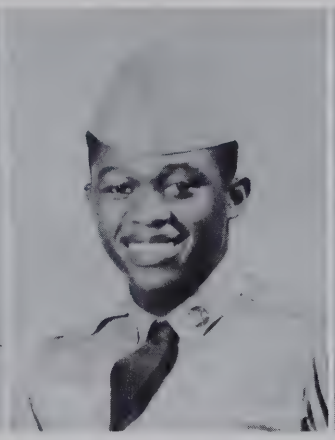
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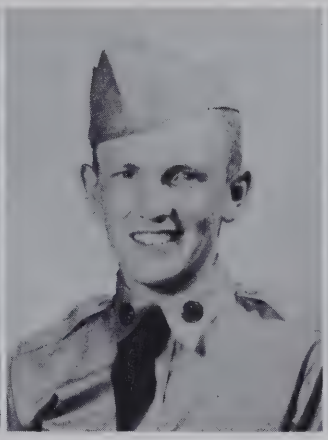
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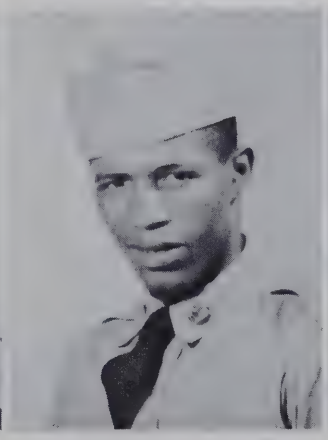
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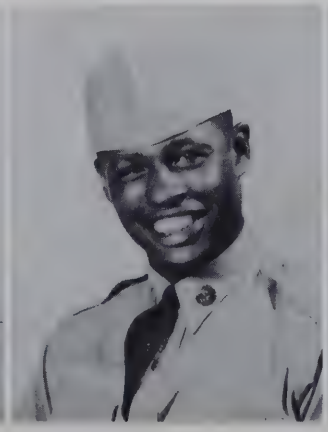
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Kelly, James E.

Klein, Melvin N.

Knighten, Roosevelt

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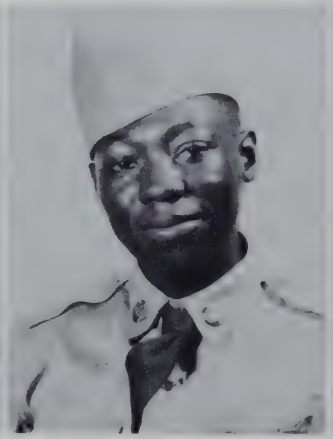
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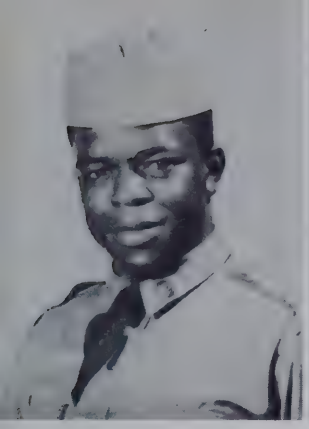
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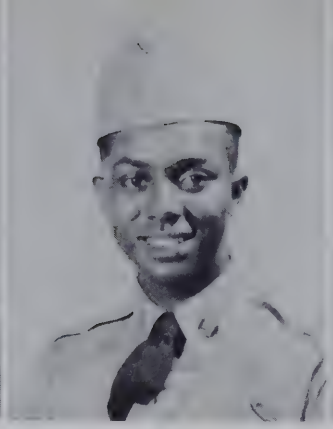
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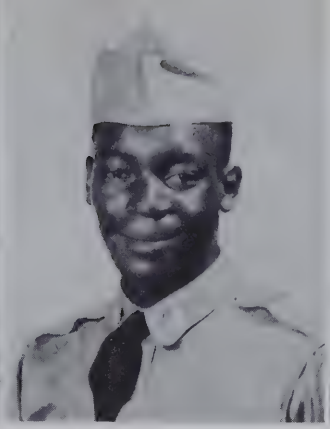
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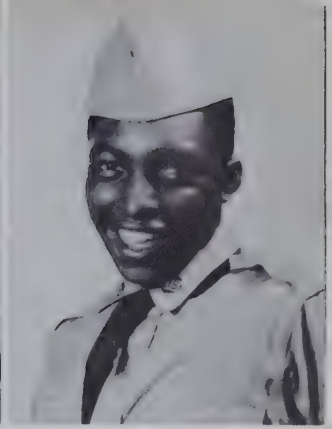
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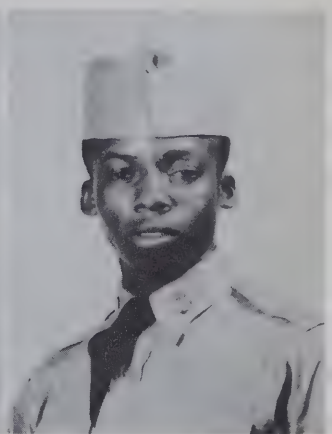
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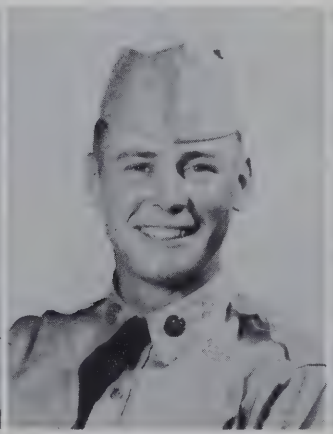
O'Dell, Samp, Jr.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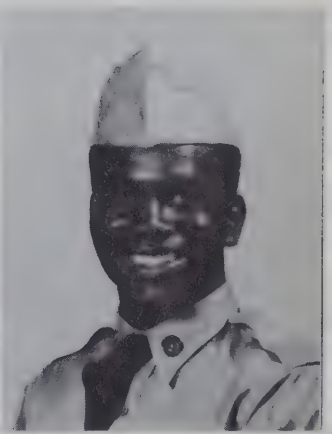
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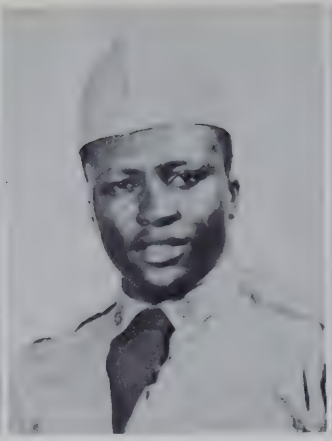
Plemmons, Lewis

Powell, George W.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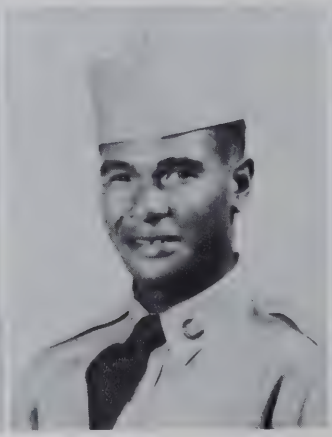
Pschirer, Robert J.

Reed, Charles C.

Rice, Richard F.

Roberts, Lloyd M.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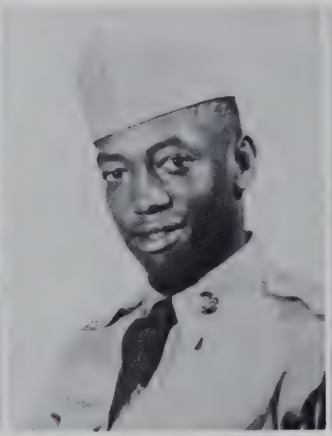
Rudell, Charles P.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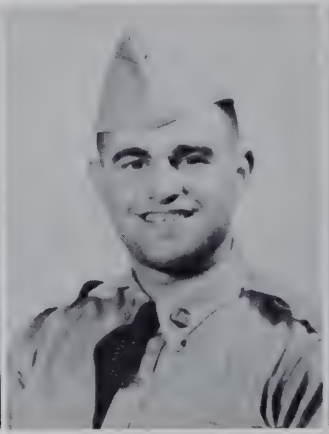
Salame, Robert

Schnell, Dean R.

Sestokas, Robert R.

Shackelford, Paul J.

Shackelford, Robert W.

Sharp, Joseph G.

Sheets, Clifford B.

Shipman, Ralph D., Jr.

Shirokey, Nicholas

Shoemaker, Ralph H.

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Simmons, Joe H.

Simpson, Berg S.

Sitz, Anthony B.

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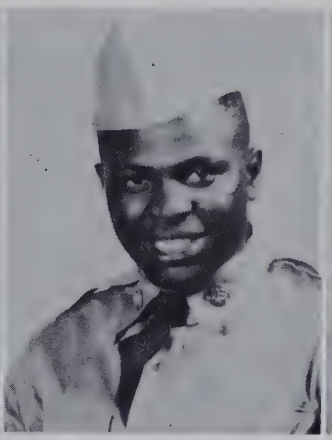
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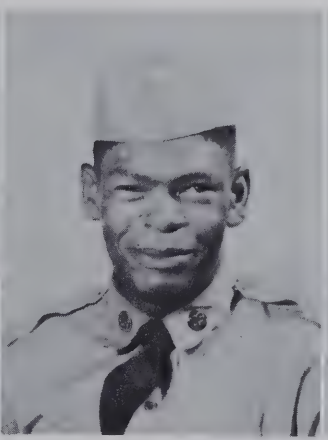
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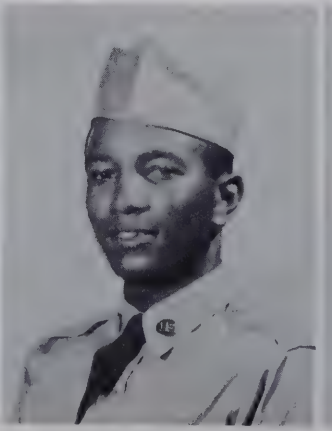
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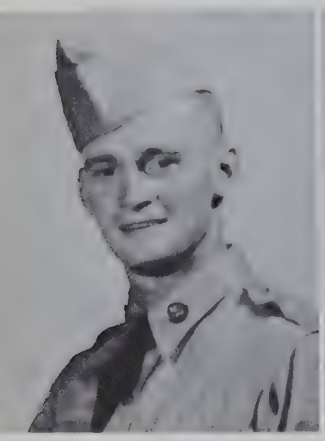
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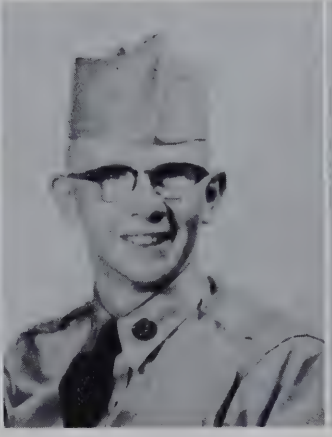
Watson, Spurgeon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Wilkerson, Billy G.

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Wodrig, William H.

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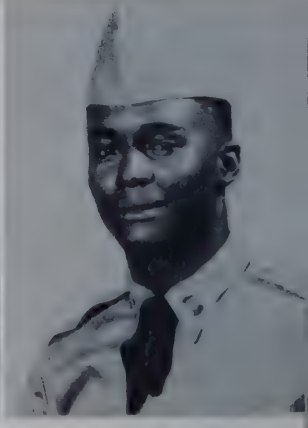
Woody, Wayne K.

Worthington, Thomas J.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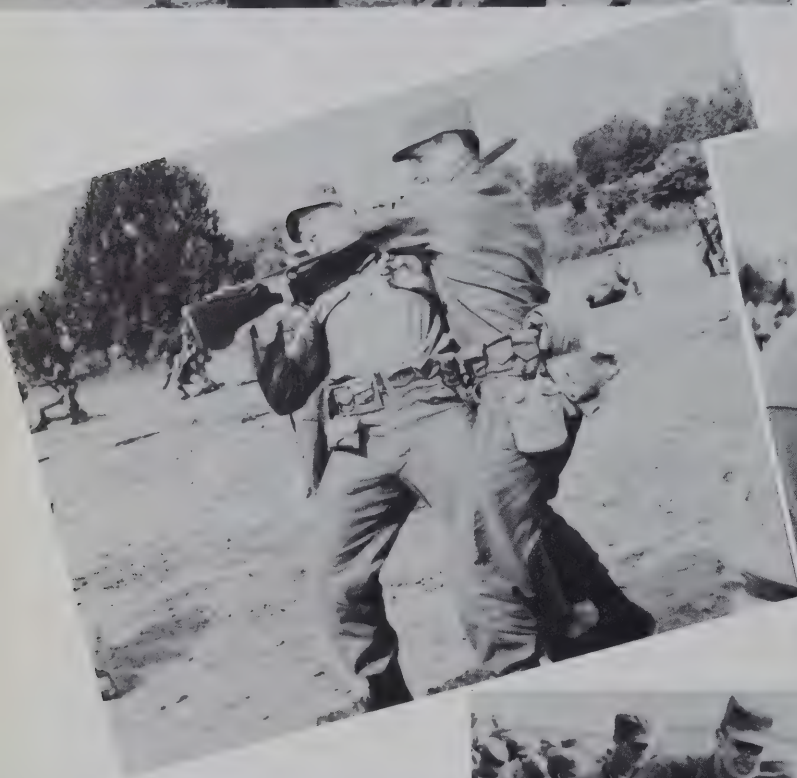
Shots and Dental Care

Road March

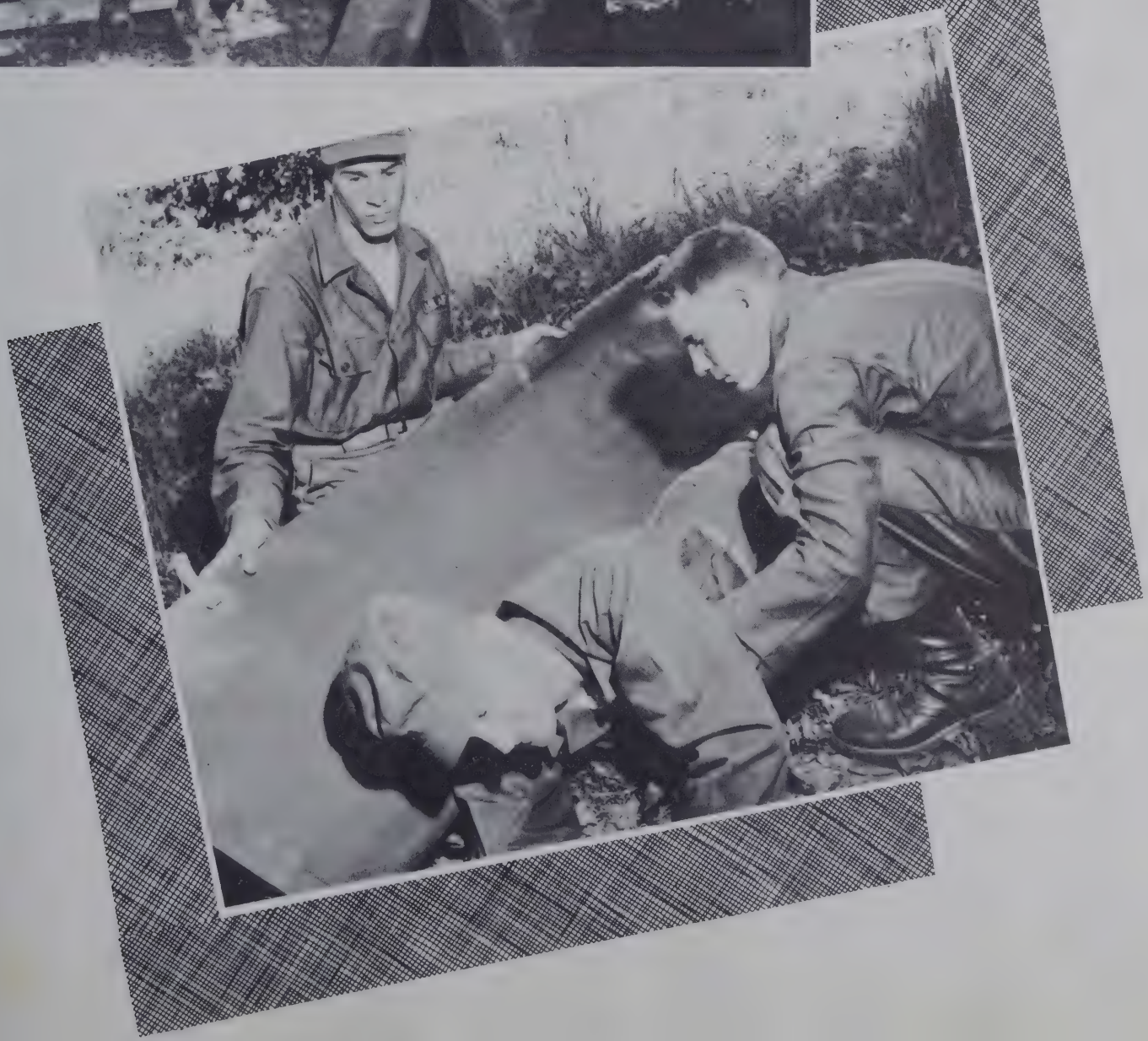
Dismounted Drill

P. R. I. Circle



Bayonet Training

First Aid

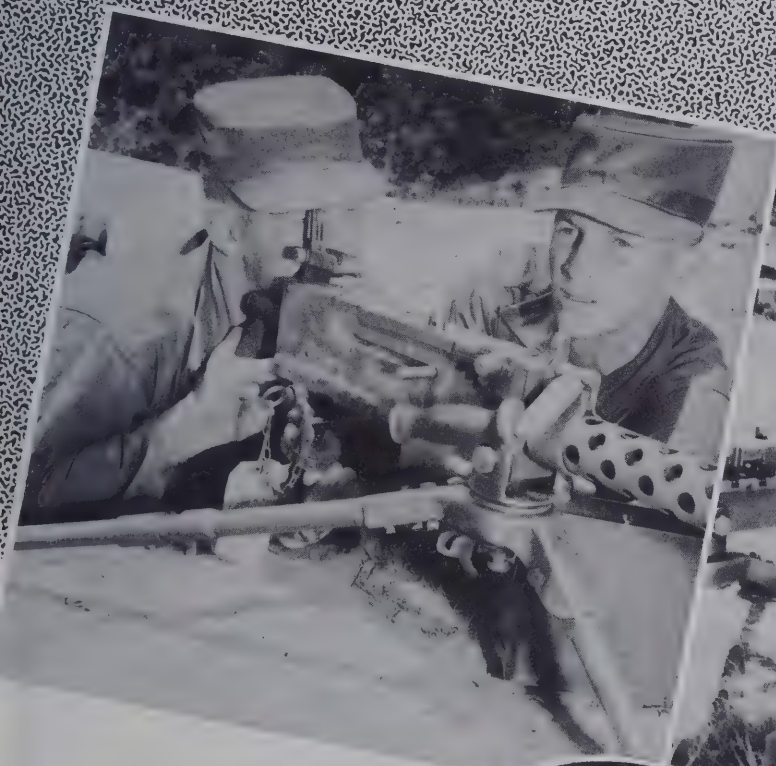


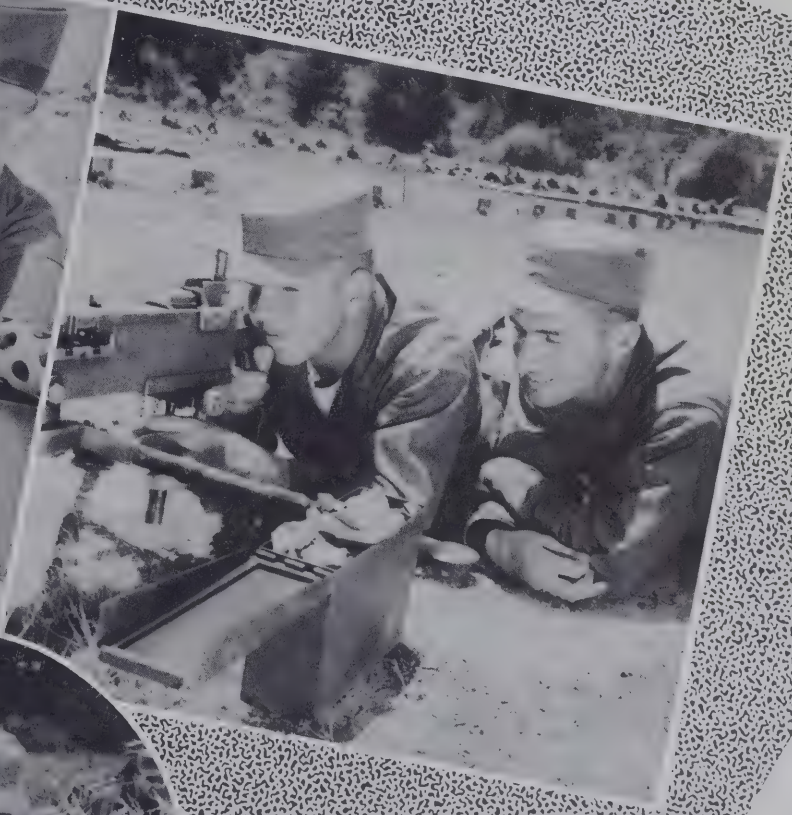
M-1 Rifle Range

49

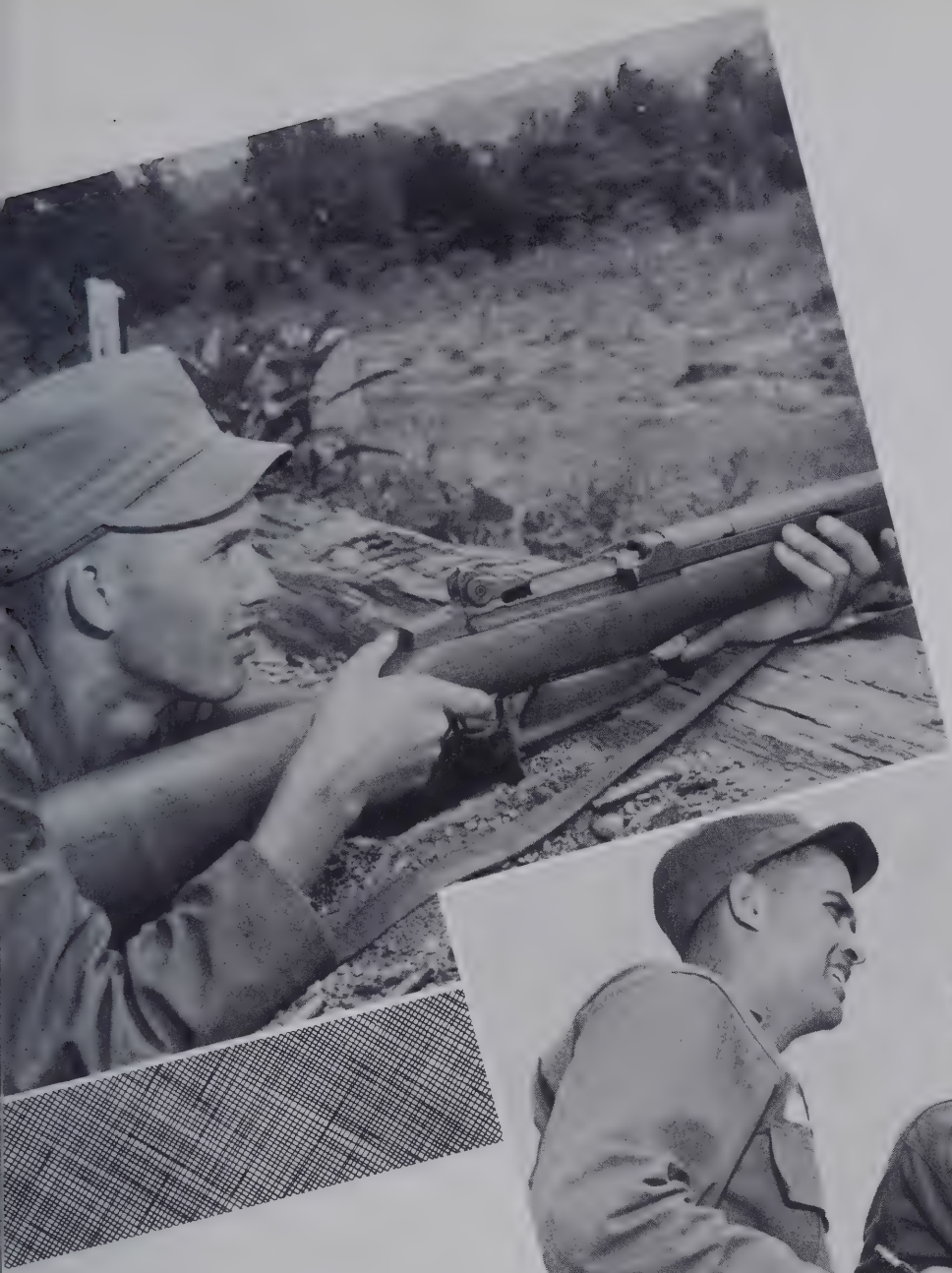
Confidence Course

Machine Gun Square





Transition Range



Close

Combat

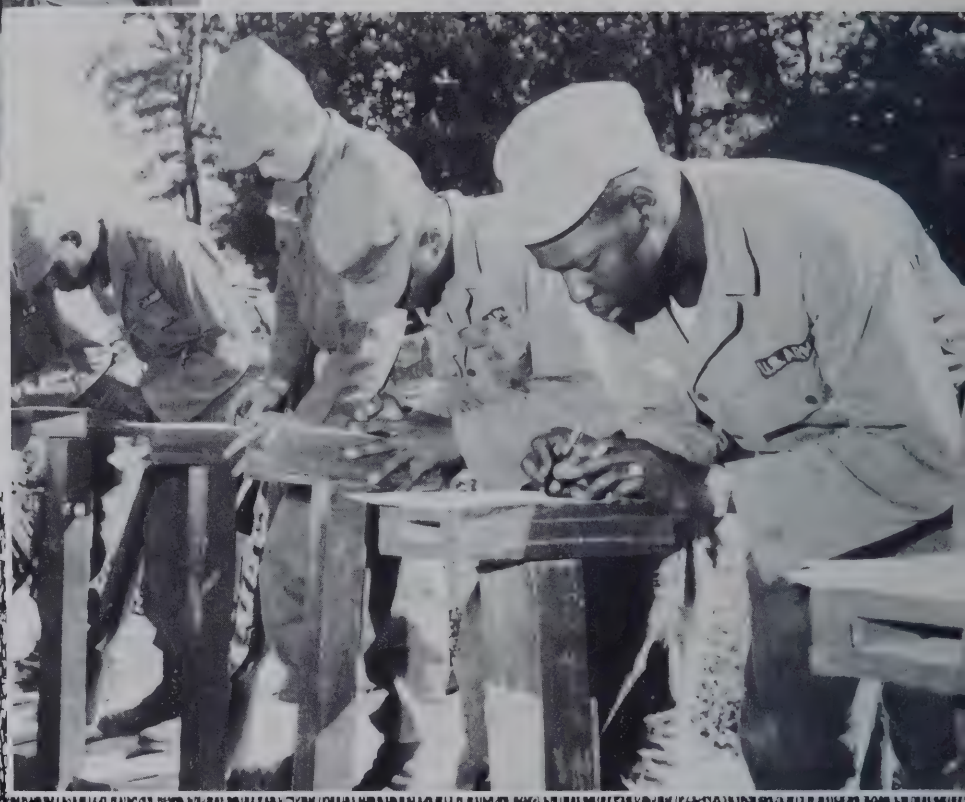
Infiltration Course

U.S. ARMY

Chow in

the Field

Proficiency



Test

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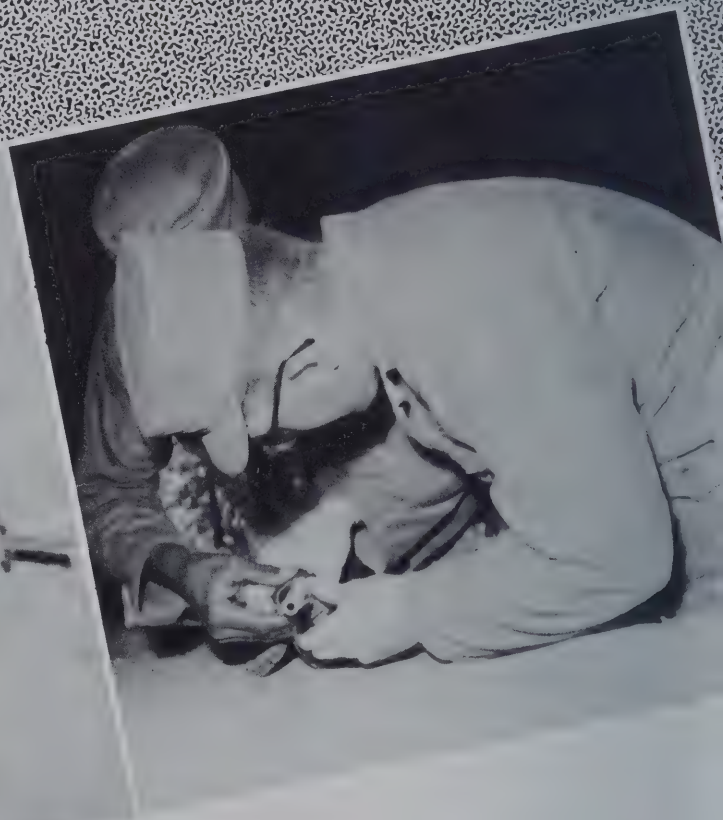

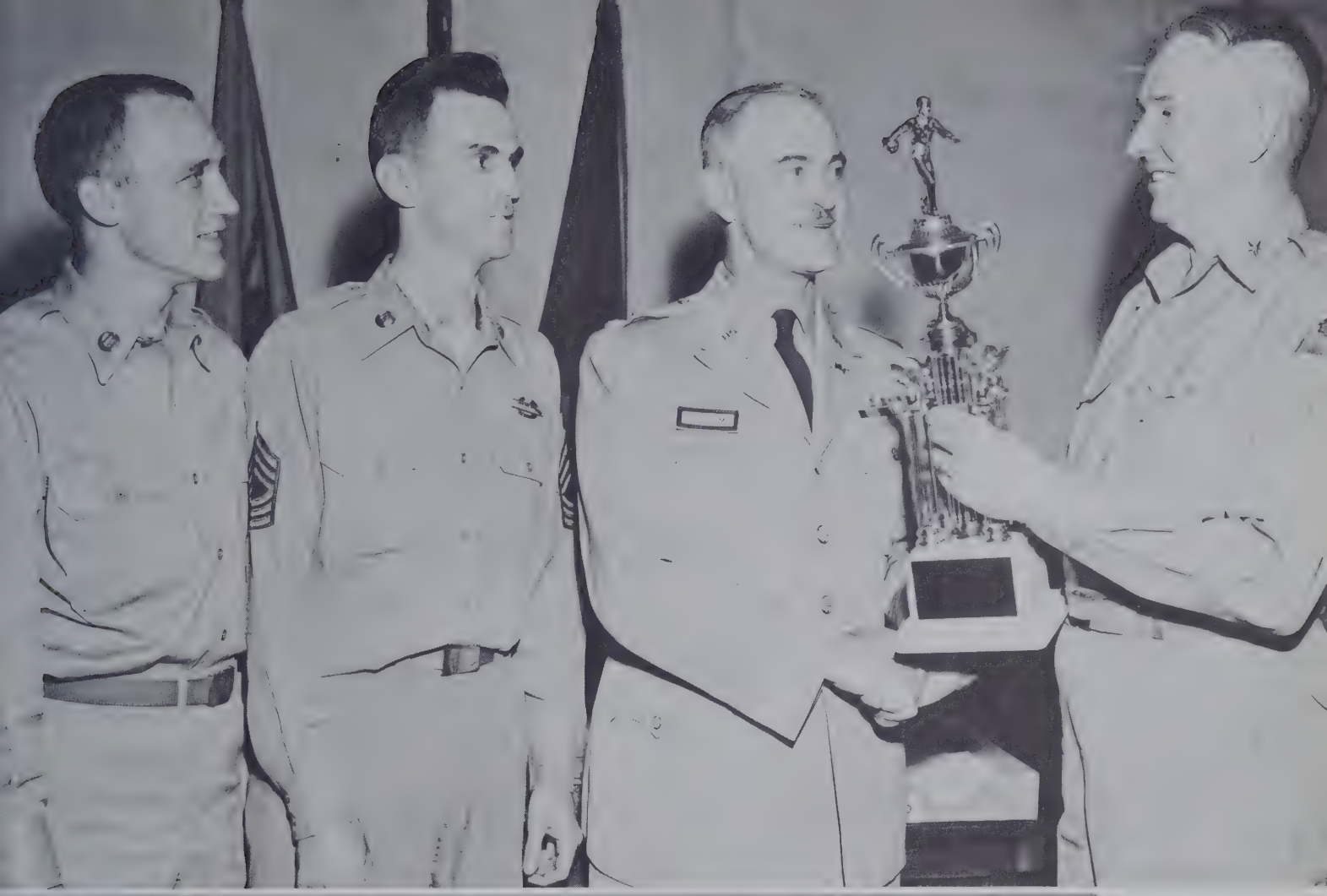

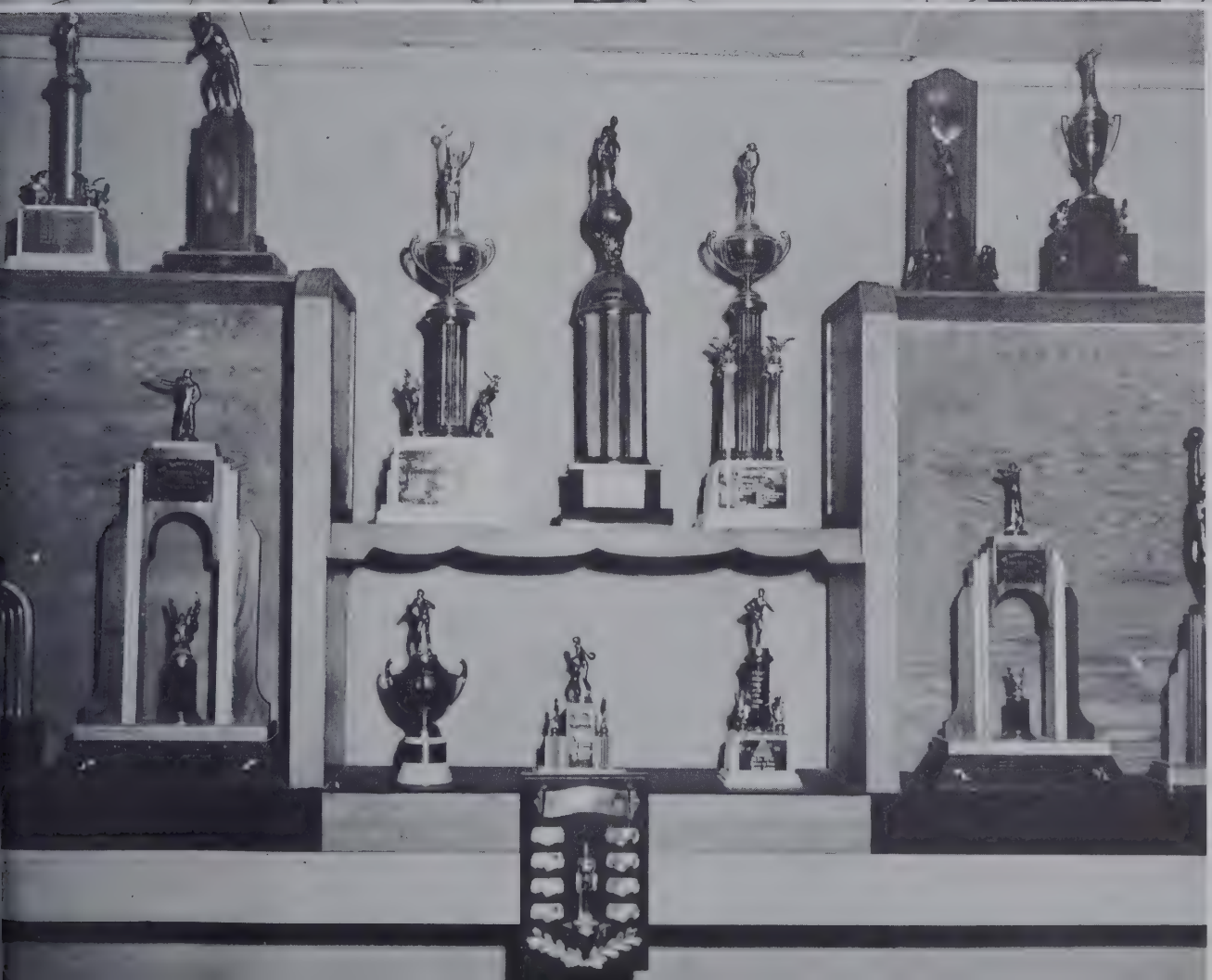

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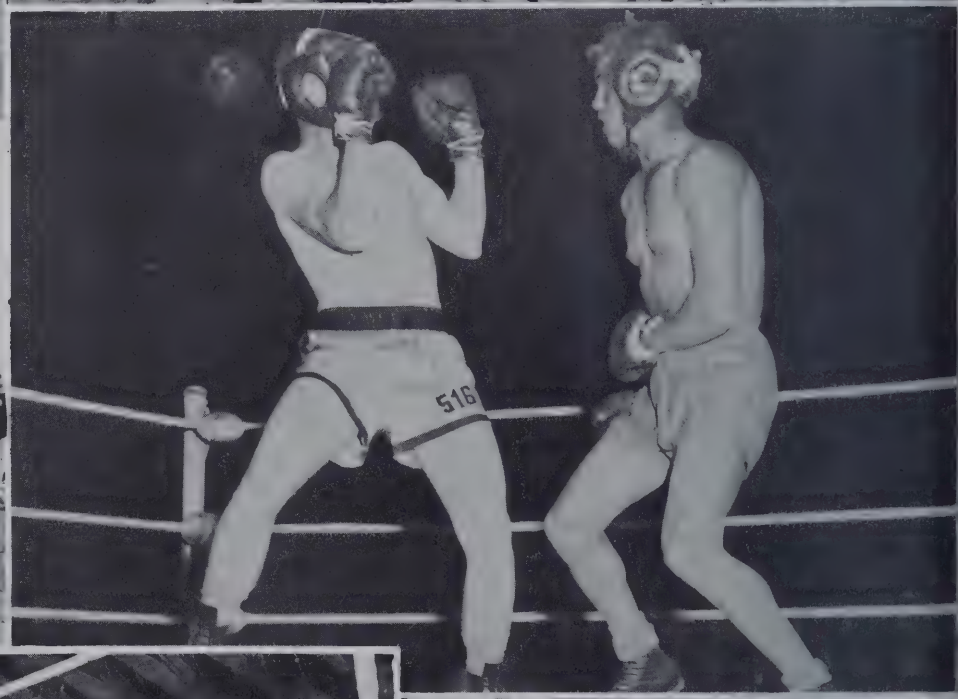
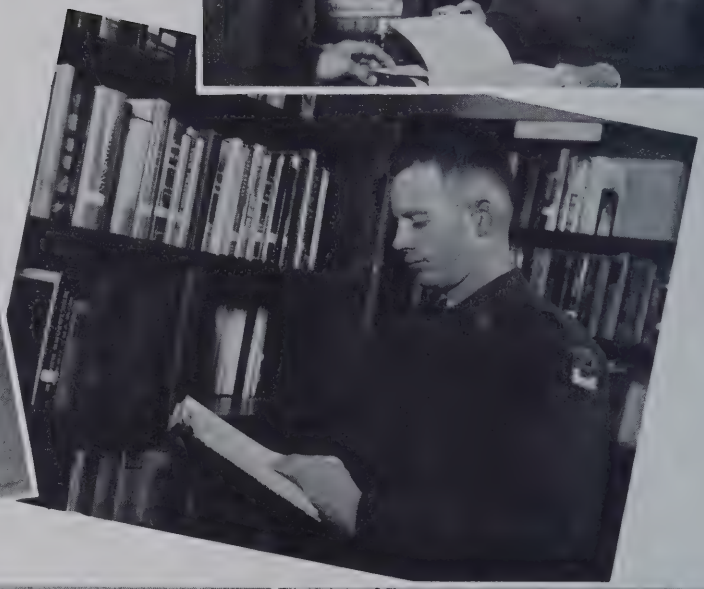
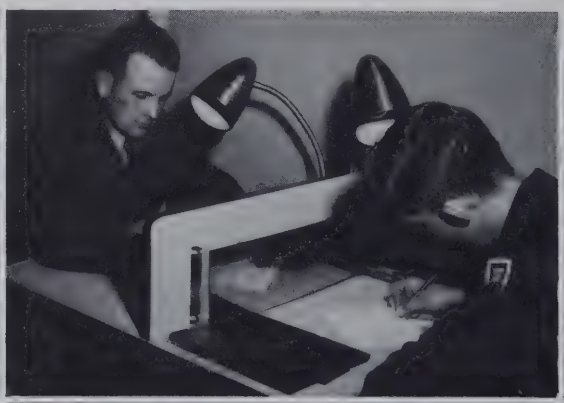
SPORTS



SPECIAL SERVICES

TIME TO COUNT OUR BLESSIN





YOU MAKE TIME IN THE ARMY
NOT MARK TIME

With basic done, each member of this graduating class can look forward to broadening horizons in the Army. Each man has already grown in self-confidence and know-how. He has learned the fundamentals of soldiering. Now he is ready to take advantage of the important opportunities shown on the following pages . . . opportunities that truly mean this class will *make* time, not mark time, in the Army!

MAKING TIME

THROUGH JOB TRAINING

One of the greatest opportunities that lies ahead is the chance for each soldier to become a skilled expert in his field through Army job training.

Some of the soldiers in this class will be sent to Army schools, where over 500 technical courses are taught—everything from finance to atomic weapons. These Army students will get top professional training, learn by using the most modern equipment, the best facilities in the world.

Others will find they can learn their job best through on-the-job training. In this case, they will learn by *doing*, supervised by men who know the requirements of the job from the ground up.

Whatever his job assignment and whatever type of training he receives, each soldier in this class will become a specialist at his duties, with the skill that assures a job well done.

MAKING TIME

THROUGH EDUCATION

Besides the job training each soldier will receive, he will also be able to pursue his formal education while in the Army. The United States Armed Forces Institute conducts the largest correspondence school in the world and has helped thousands upon thousands of soldiers get their high school diplomas. The Army has also arranged with many civilian schools and colleges to permit soldiers to attend courses in their off-duty hours, thus even making it possible for an ambitious soldier to get a college degree. In addition, there are Education Centers in hundreds of Army posts which daily teach subjects the soldiers themselves have asked for. The Army has found that the greater an education a soldier has, the greater contribution he makes to the Army itself. This is why the Army urges each soldier to carry his education forward as far as possible.

MAKING TIME THROUGH TRAVEL

The travel opportunities offered by the Army provide a valuable education in themselves. Assignments in various parts of the United States enable a soldier to understand his American heritage. But travel in the Army doesn't stop there. Most soldiers have the chance for an overseas assignment, enabling them to visit exciting foreign lands. These foreign tours not only provide the fun and thrills of adventure . . . but in traveling and observing different ways of life a soldier will find new meaning in his own.

Every soldier grows in the Army . . . grows not just physically but grows into a new maturity. The spiritual and moral growth of its men is of utmost importance to the Army. The opportunity for a soldier to worship in his own religious faith is a fundamental part of Army life.

MAKING TIME THROUGH CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Besides the active programs conducted by Protestant, Catholic and Jewish chaplains, each stands ready to counsel any soldier with his religious or personal problems.

Army discipline has its basis in self-control, self-respect, self-reliance, honor and honesty. This discipline creates clean-minded, clean-living soldiers who are aware of the responsibilities of good citizenship.

MAKING TIME THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Army hopes each soldier will climb up the leadership ladder. While every soldier cannot become an officer, each man has an equal chance and each is given promotions as they are merited. The Army's Officer Candidate Courses are always open to properly qualified enlisted men. As each soldier becomes capable of handling greater and greater responsibility, his self-confidence increases and so does his stature as a leader.

TO THE PARENTS

Congratulations! You can be proud of your son, for with the completion of his basic training he has taken an important step forward. Now he is ready to make time in the Army through the opportunities we have indicated. You will follow his progress with pride as he visits you throughout his Army career.

Even greater opportunities will be available to your son if he reenlists at the end of his present term. He will have an opportunity to choose his technical training, his branch of service or his travel—new opportunities to plan a rewarding service career that carries forward his goals.

The next time your son is home, why not discuss the possibilities of an Army career with him? Weigh the pros and cons together. Compare his prospects in civilian life with the many benefits the Army offers . . . benefits that increase with service. The Army provides a rich and rewarding future . . . a career worthy of the most serious consideration by both you and your son.

But for now . . . feel confident that as your son moves out of basic training he is sure to *make* time, not mark time, in the Army!

Snapshots

Snapshots

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Donald Bowman

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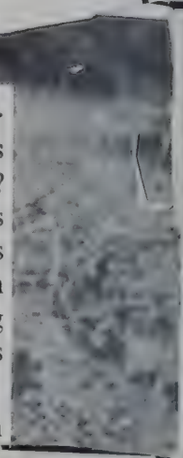
Michael A. Vowels



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Miller
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